

# chapter 06

client and brief

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*Fig.309:European Union flags outside the European Commission headquarters building in Brussels, Belgium. [Source: [www.royalgazette.com/article/20110623/BUSINESS04/706239907&source=RSS](http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20110623/BUSINESS04/706239907&source=RSS)]*

## 06\_the delegation of the European Commission

The Commission is a key EU institution. It alone has the right to draw up proposals for new EU legislation, which it sends to the Council and Parliament for discussion and adoption (Fontaine, 2010: 26). The Commission is must answer to the Parliament. There is one Commission member ('Commissioner') from each EU country, including the Commission President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is one of the Commission's vice-presidents.

On 9 February 2010, the European Parliament voted to approve the new Commission. The former Prime Minister of Portugal, José Manuel Barroso, was reappointed President of the Commission for a second five-year term (Fontaine, 2010: 26). The Commission enjoys a substantial degree of independence in exercising its powers. Its job is to uphold the common interest, which means that it must not take instructions from any national government. As 'Guardian of the Treaties', it has to ensure that the regulations and directives adopted by the Council and Parliament re being implemented in the member states. If they are not, the Commission can take the offending party to the Court of Justice to oblige it to comply with EU law (Fontaine, 2010: 26).

As the EU's executive arm, the Commission implements the decisions taken by the Council in areas such as the common agricultural policy. It has wide powers to manage the EU's common policies, such as research and technology,

overseas aid and regional development. It also manages the budget for these policies (Fontaine, 2010: 26).

The Commissioners are assisted by a civil service, based mainly in Brussels and Luxembourg, divided into 43 departments and services. There are also a number of agencies, set up to carry out specific tasks for the Commission in other countries.

## What is the European Union and what does it believe in?

- The European Union is the world's leading trading power and therefore plays a decisive role in international negotiations, such as those among the 153 member countries of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), or at the United Nations conferences on climate change.
- The EU takes a clear position on sensitive issues affecting ordinary people, such as environmental protection, renewable energy resources, the 'precautionary principle' in food safety, the ethical aspects of biotechnology, the need to protect endangered species, etc.
- The EU remains at the forefront of global efforts to tackle global warming. In December 2008 it unilaterally committed itself to a 20 % cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.
- The EU believe in relationships countries outside Euopre, provided trade opportunities and assistance to developing countries.

## What is the European Commission doing in South Africa?

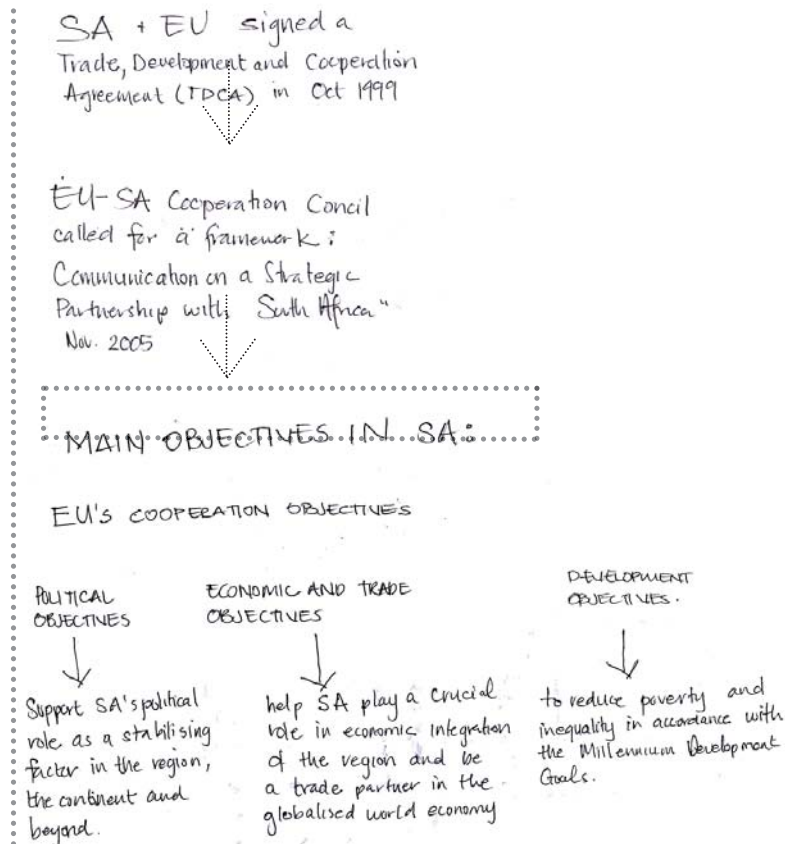


Fig.310: diagram indicating the function of the EC in South Africa [Source: www.eusa.org.za/]

## How does the Delegation of the European Commission in South Africa want to be perceived?

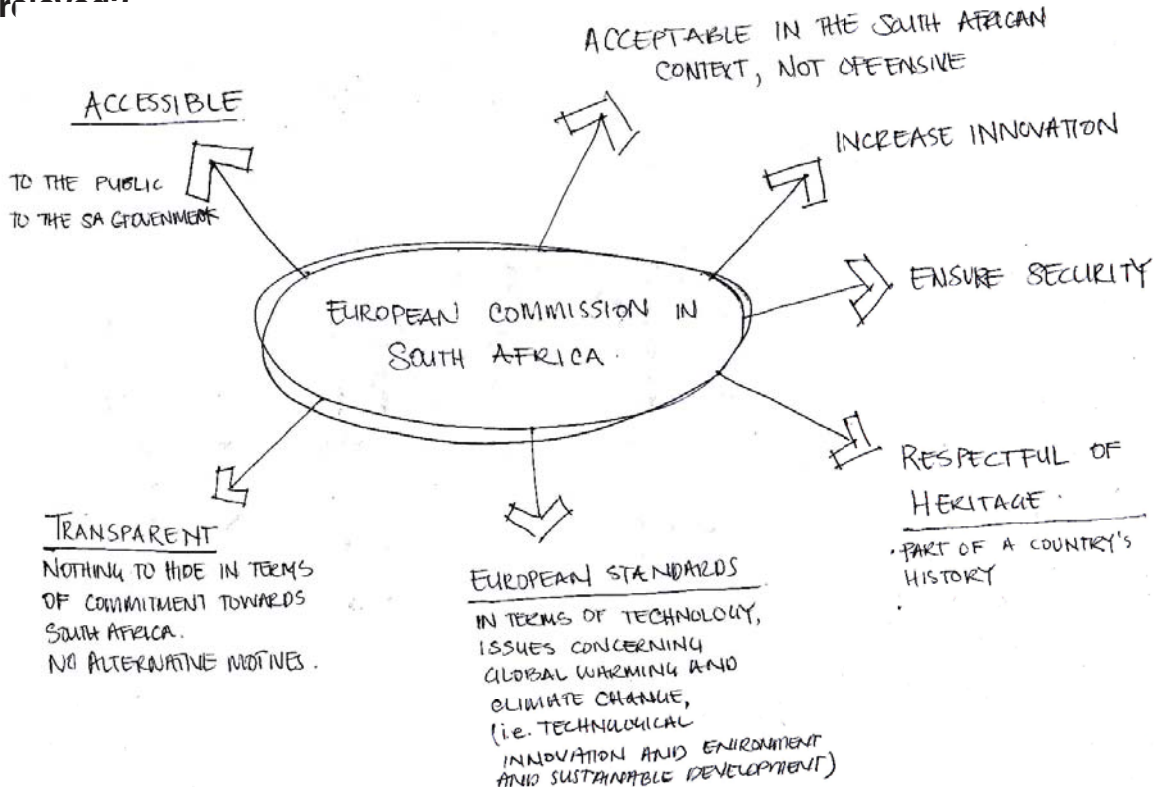


Fig.311: Diagram showing a proposed view on how the EC want to be perceived in South Africa [Source: author]

## What are their needs in terms of a new building? (spaces/functions)

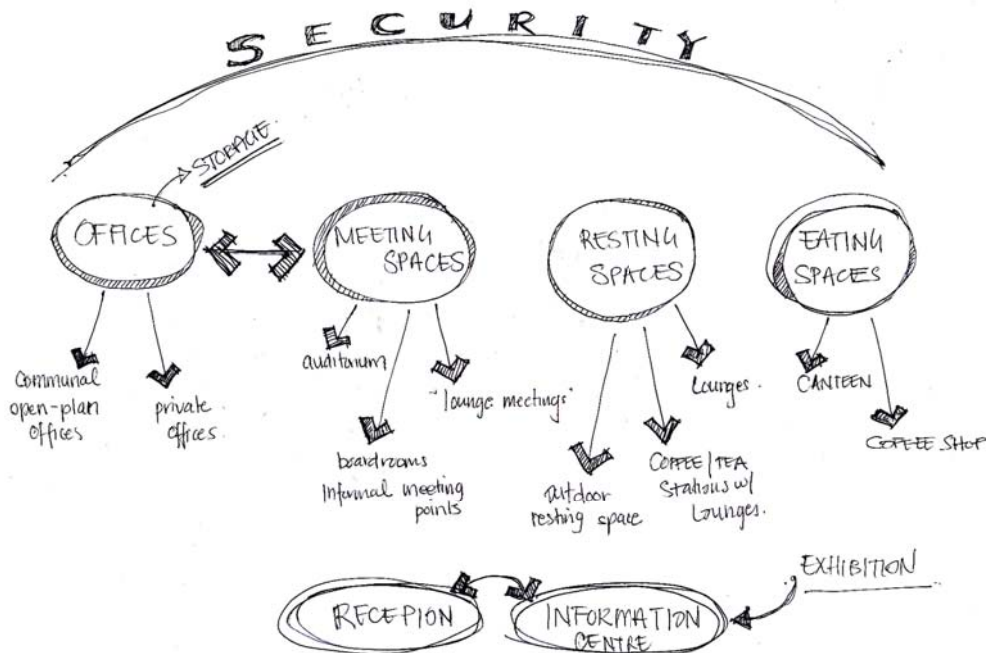


Fig.312: Simplified diagram on the needs of the new building [Source: author]





## Who will use this building?

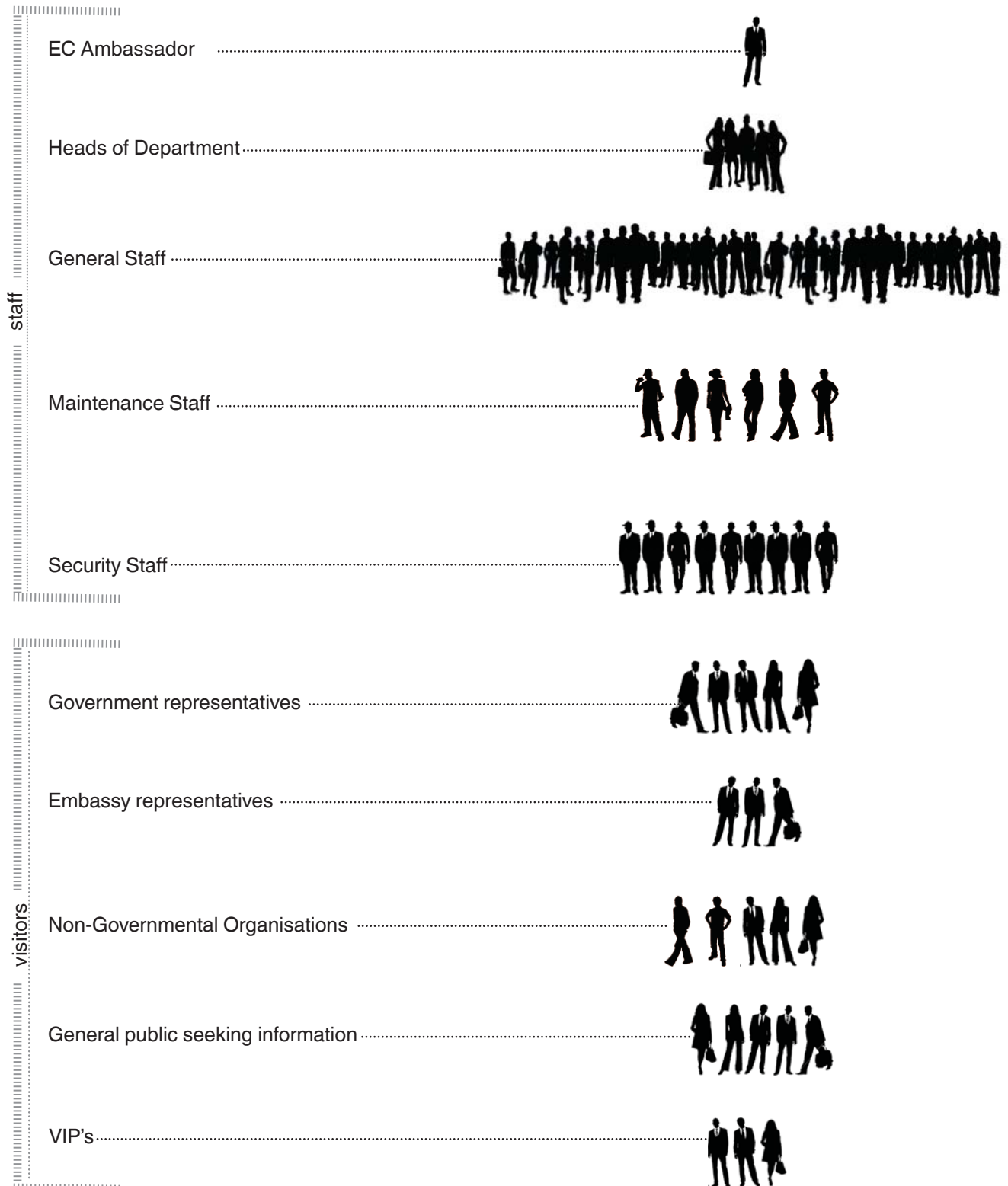


Fig.313: Diagram showing the users of the uilding [Source: author]

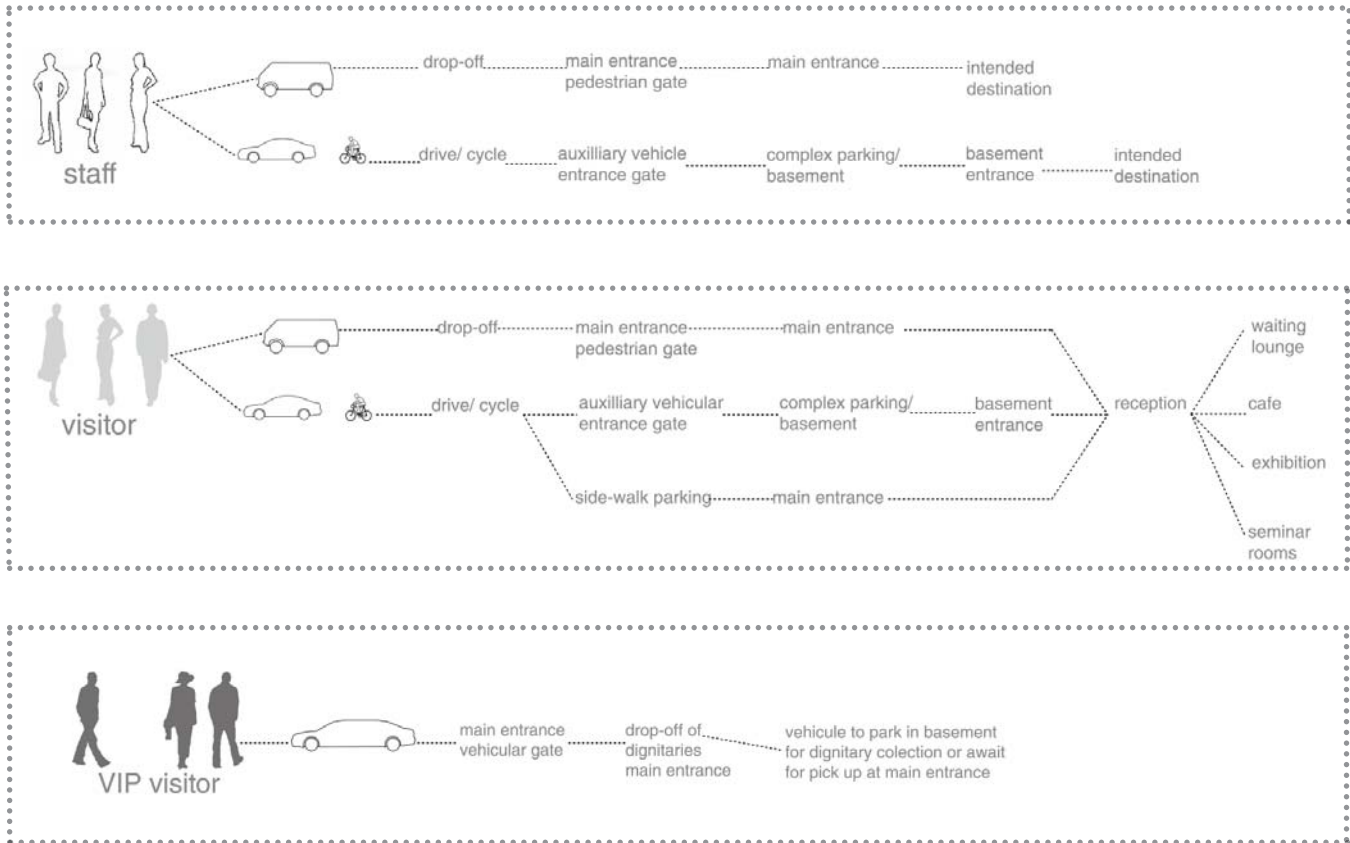


Fig.314:Diagram of proposed ways the people will enter the building [Source: author]

# Brief

The intervention must present well functioning and requested space that provides for the Delegates of the European Commission in South Africa. The adaptive reuse of the Agrivaal Building will use informants of environmental sustainability and heritage as guiding principles in the design.