

The President

Mr Peter van Dalen
Member
European Parliament

D 103862 09.11.2022

Dear Mr van Dalen,

Thank you for your letter inquiring about the actions adopted by the Bureau to reduce our ecological footprint and energy consumption in a context of climate change and energy crisis.

I fully share your concerns about soaring energy costs. More needs to and can be done. There is no time to lose. As co-legislators, we must respond now. We need a strong signal of unity.

On 2 May 2022, the Bureau endorsed short-term measures to further lower Parliament's energy consumption. In addition, on 3 October, the Bureau decided to task the responsible Parliament services to assess and implement the following supplementary measures as soon as possible:

- Adjusting the temperature settings in office areas to no more than 19 °C for heating and no less than 25 °C for cooling;
- Turning off the heating/cooling as of the end of the workweek until Monday morning and over upcoming holiday periods;
- Reducing the illumination of building facades;
- Optimising the operations of the catering outlets, energy-consuming equipment, air-handling units and air-filters;
- Decreasing indoor lighting levels where possible, taking into account legal minimum requirements, safety and security considerations;
- Optimising the functioning of the presence detectors in the buildings to improve the energy efficiency of office lighting;
- Ending the pilot phase for free electric vehicle charging stations and installing a 'pay per use' system as soon as possible;
- Exploring the possibilities of extending energy saving efforts to products used on the premises but not directly linked to buildings, such as ICT equipment.

Our Institution has a long-standing commitment to reducing its ecological footprint and energy consumption. This involves carrying out a notable number of environmental actions, which entails large-scale projects to increase the energy-efficiency of our buildings, optimise office management, reduce our CO₂ emissions and develop renewable energy production.

The termination of the rental contract of the energy inefficient SCHUMAN building in Luxembourg by the end of 2022 will reduce the energy consumption and associated costs considerably, as the building was accountable for approximately 20% of gas consumption and 10% of electricity consumption on this site in 2021.

Furthermore the central heating and cooling system in the WEISS building in Strasbourg was completely replaced in 2021 with an environmentally responsible and energy efficient system using a modern heat pump.

To further harness the potential of on-site generation, the installation of photovoltaic solar panels on most of the Parliament's buildings in Brussels (SPINELLI, Montoyer 70, BRANDT and ANTALL) is currently ongoing and should be completed by January 2023. Additional technical studies are being carried out to expand the installation to the other buildings in Brussels, hence a further increase our onsite renewable electricity production.

Concerning your request to suspend the part-sessions in Parliament's seat in Strasbourg, we are not in a situation where, due to exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances in the sense of Rule 237a Rules of Procedure, we have to hold our part-sessions elsewhere or even remotely. As President of this House, I will continue to ensure that Parliament operates in compliance with the Treaties acknowledging its presence in Strasbourg as an important symbol of European integration, while at the same time supporting any action addressed to improve Parliament's energy performance and savings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form the name 'Roberta Metsola'.

Roberta Metsola