

**Question for written answer E-012650/2015**  
**to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Beatrix von Storch (ECR)**

Subject: Temporary use of empty EP buildings in Strasbourg for the emergency reception of refugees

The European Parliament can make an immediate practical contribution to tackling the refugee crisis by allowing its empty buildings in Strasbourg (Strasbourg-Ortenau Eurodistrict) to be used provisionally as an emergency reception centre.

Parliament uses these buildings for just four days a month. If plenary sittings were to be held, for the time being, in Brussels rather than Strasbourg, the empty buildings in Strasbourg could be made available to the refugees immediately. Each of the 750 offices for MEPs' use has its own toilet, shower and folding bed. The existing TV system could carry channels from the refugees' areas of origin. Parliament's canteens are in full working order, and the facilities also include a gym. The empty offices earmarked for EP staff could be used by the refugee reception and advice services. Language courses and education and information sessions could take place in the meeting rooms. The millions of euros saved through the suspension of Members' and staff travel costs could be put to good use providing for the refugees.

This measure can take effect immediately if the European Council provisionally sets aside Protocol No 6 to the Treaties (with its stipulation that plenary sessions shall be held in Strasbourg).

Does the Council intend provisionally to set aside Protocol No 6 so that plenary sittings can be held for the time being in Brussels, allowing Parliament's buildings in Strasbourg, which have stood empty for far too long, to be used as emergency accommodation for refugees?