

EN
E-001254/2019
Answer given by Mr Oettinger
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.5.2019)

The Commission has been in frequent contact with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) over the Agency's efforts to find a new tenant for the London building and to keep the related costs under control.

EMA signed its rent contract in 2011 without a break clause, bearing in mind that negotiating such a break clause would have increased the rental costs considerably. The absence of a break clause in the rent contract was a conscious choice to achieve savings, at a time when a potential United Kingdom withdrawal was not under discussion. On this basis the European Parliament and the Council ("the budgetary authority") approved EMA's building file in 2011.

Following the submission of its request to the budgetary authority on 4 March 2019, the EMA obtained the European Parliament's approval on 18 March 2019 and Council approval on 2 April 2019, to enter into a sub-lease contract for the London building. Negotiations with the landlord and the sub-tenant are currently ongoing.