

**Question for written answer E-001253/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: While France saves EUR 1.2 billion in housing benefit, Brussels squanders EUR 1.6 billion

According to the French satirical newspaper *Le Canard enchaîné*, the French National Family Allowances Fund has estimated that 1.2 million people will be stripped of their housing benefit in 2019 as a result of government plans to overhaul the way it is calculated¹. All the French Government has done so far is explain that this measure would save around EUR 1.2 billion a year.

At the same time in Brussels, the Commission has committed itself, between now and 2039, to paying EUR 600 million in rent (money provided mostly by German, French and Italian taxpayers) to a property investment fund for a building in London's financial centre. The building is so luxurious that its toilets are made of marble.

Meanwhile, the European Parliament intends to demolish one of its building in Brussels, which was poorly constructed 24 years ago at a cost of EUR 1 billion². On 19 February 2019, its Bureau also decided to send Parliament officials to work in New York, Jakarta and Addis Ababa³.

What steps will the Commission take to bring its property expenditure under control at long last and reduce the burden on French and European taxpayers?

¹ <https://www.capital.fr/immobilier/reforme-des-apl-1-2-million-de-perdants-lan-prochain-1318526>

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/parliament-looks-to-build-new-brussels-home/>

³ <https://www.politico.eu/article/european-parliament-expansion-plan-indonesia-ethiopia-new-york/>