

**Question for written answer E-000812/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: The European Parliament's single seat is in Strasbourg

According to the Treaty on European Union (TEU), particularly the Protocol (No 6) on the location of the seats of the institutions of the European Union, '[t]he European Parliament shall have its seat in Strasbourg where the 12 periods of monthly plenary sessions, including the budget session, shall be held. The periods of additional plenary sessions shall be held in Brussels.'¹

Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union stipulates that '[t]he Commission shall promote the general interest of the Union and take appropriate initiatives to that end. It shall ensure the application of the Treaties, and of measures adopted by the institutions pursuant to them.'

Every month, on Thursdays during plenary sessions in Strasbourg, hardly any issue directly affecting Europe is placed on the agenda².

1. Given the goals it proclaims for ecology and sound financial management, did the Commission take the initiative of making its statement on its 'European Green Deal' at Parliament in Brussels, instead of in Strasbourg during an extraordinary part-session on 11 December 2019?³
2. Has the Commission calculated the cost of this extraordinary part-session?
3. What arrangements has the Commission made to present in Strasbourg, in line with the EU Treaties, those of its initiatives and actions that account for a significant share of the EU budget⁴?

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2016:202:FULL&from=EN>

² Plenary session of 29 and 30 January 2020, resolution on India's Citizenship Act and other texts; http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/OJQ-9-2020-01-30_EN.html

³ Extraordinary part-session of 11 December 2019, Commission statement on the European Green Deal; https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/OJQ-9-2019-12-11_EN.html. The European Green Deal envisages EUR 260 billion of additional annual investment; https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁴ See the Judgment of the Court in joined cases C-237/11 and C-238/11, paragraph 39: '[...] the Court has held that the intention of the Member States was to make provision for the seat of the Parliament, in Strasbourg, to be the principal place where it meets in ordinary plenary sitting, and to that end to specify the mandatory number of part-sessions which must be held there, and for the Parliament to exercise its budgetary powers in plenary sitting during one of the ordinary plenary part-sessions held at the seat of the institution (see the judgment in *France v Parliament*, paragraphs 25 and 28). <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=1B1521C84654052CB9FAF382C8EAE1D?text=&docid=131805&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=31728>