The Commission targets a reduction by 15% or more of its gas consumption in the winter period 2022/2023 compared to the average of the winters of the last five years. This will be achieved through a set of measures which have been put in place since April 2022. Consumption will continue to be closely monitored on a regular basis during the winter. Measures in place ensure optimisation of the operating conditions of all buildings including the Berlaymont building in Brussels. This comprises:

- Reduction of humidification in ventilation units,
- Reduction of hours of heating, ventilation and air conditioning in many buildings,
- Change of temperature ranges in offices by -1°C for heating and +1°C for cooling.

In addition to the above, the Commission has since 2021 closed down ten old office buildings in Brussels with low energy performance and replaced them with two new, more efficient ones, already including new passive buildings. This was accompanied by new ways of working, notably teleworking and dynamic collaborative working spaces. The total number of square meters to be heated is thus reduced and the heating of buildings requires less energy. Also, more flexibility allows for temporary closing of Commission’s buildings, for example during holidays.

All the above-mentioned recent actions stem from the Communication ‘Greening of the Commission’¹ of April 2022 which also foresees other actions which will be gradually implemented to further improve the energy performance of existing buildings.

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¹ Communication of the Commission C(2022)2230 on the Greening of the Commission.