

1156/2019

**Petition No 1156/2019 by Nico Semsrott (German) on renaming the European Parliament Plenary Room in Brussels and establishing the European Parliament's single seat in Brussels**

The petitioner describes how the European Parliament in the fifties started up its activity in Strasbourg, using the building of the Council of Europe, but then later decided to have its own house in Brussels. However, travelling between Brussels and Strasbourg continued, as Member States agreed, and enshrined in the Treaties (Protocol No 6), that *"The 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 [...]"*. The petitioner refers to different initiatives taken by the Members in view of setting a single seat in Brussels. The petitioner highlights that the situation of the European Parliament is particular, as it is not allowed to decide on the location of its own seat. As a solution, the petitioner suggests to rename the Brussels Plenary hall in Brussels into "STRASBOURG", so that, meeting in Brussels, the European Parliament still meets in "Strasbourg", in line with the legal text. The petitioner therefore suggests renaming the Brussels Plenary Hall, and highlights the cost- and environmental savings that would generate.

**Information**

- Preceding petitions on the single-seat are  
Petition No 1073/2018 by Renato Lelli (Italian) on a request for a single seat for the European Parliament; Petition No 0211/2018 by R.S. (German) on changing the official seat of the European Parliament to Brussels and compensate France and Luxembourg; Petition No. 0324/2017 by G.A. (Italian) on the expenditure incurred by the European Parliament for plenary sessions in Strasbourg; Petition No 2274/2014 by Antonio Zagaria (Italian), on a single seat for the European Parliament; Petition 1696/2013 by Zeljko Stjepan Krizanac (Croatian) on the seat of the European Parliament; Petition 0822/2009 by Wolfgang Bommer (German), on reducing the number of MEPs and a single seat for the European Parliament;
- Petition 0740/2009 by Mr Anders von Post (Swedish) on the unreasonable costs resulted from having two seats for the European Parliament; Petition 0630/2006 by Cecilia Malmström, on behalf of the Campaign for Parliamentary Reform, signed (electronically) by more than one million European citizens and in addition supported by MEPs Alvaro, Mastenbroek, Heaton-Harris, Kauppi, Stihler & Özdemir; to consider their appeal for Parliament to have a 'single seat' in Brussels, and for the drafting of an own-initiative report relating to procedures for 'citizens'.

**Recommendations**

- Declare admissible;
- inform the petitioner that the European Parliament is aware of the criticisms expressed regarding the costs incurred in organising the plenary sessions in Strasbourg; however, the question of the seat of the European Parliament is regulated by the EU Treaties and can consequently be amended only following a unanimous decision by the EU Heads of

State and Government;

- forward to the petitioner the resolution of the European Parliament of 16 February 2017 ‘on possible evolutions of and adjustments to the current institutional set-up of the European Union’ (P8\_TA (2017) 0048), Paragraph 53 of which states: ‘Reiterates its call for a single seat for the European Parliament and its commitment to initiating an ordinary treaty revision procedure under Article 48 TEU’;
- forward to the petitioner the European Parliament Decision of 18 April 2018 on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016, Section I – European Parliament (P8\_TA (2018) 0124); Paragraph 38 of which states: ‘Calls on the Council to find a solution toward a single seat for the European Parliament in order to not waste taxpayers’ money’;
- Forward to AFCCO for opinion.

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