
YEPP Resolution: Single Seat for the European Parliament

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Lisbon, May 2012

Acknowledging:

- The European Parliament (EP), being the only assembly in the world that does not have a single seat, is spreading its working places in over nine buildings in three different countries across the EU.
- The 754 Members of the European Parliament (MEP) along with their assistants and staff commute on a monthly basis from Brussels to Strasbourg and back, in order to annually attend the 12 plenary sessions that the Amsterdam Treaty requires to be held in Strasbourg.
- The European Parliament's resolution on EU's 2013 Budget voted on March 29th 2012, and specifically the paragraph on the Single Seat for the European Parliament, voted by an overwhelming majority (429 votes in favor, 184 against and 37 abstentions)
- The "Louise Weiss" building in Strasbourg cost €500 million back in 1999 and has been adding €180 million since then to annual EU budget, a total cost of 2.3 billion euros according to official EP estimates. A building remaining empty for approximately 300 days out of the 365 within a year.
- In 2006 it emerged that the City of Strasbourg had been overcharging the EP between €32 and €60 million too much to rent property in Strasbourg.
- The CO2 emissions emerging from the Brussels – Strasbourg commute are estimated around 19,000 tons on an annual basis, at a time when the European Union is taking a lead in advocating cuts in greenhouse gases.
- The current arrangement arises a numerous matters of efficiency and productivity concerning the work carried out, especially when several members of the faculty are required to remain in Brussels, the seat of the EU Commission and the EU Council.
- In 2010 a new building to house the EP's back-office staff in Luxembourg was given the green light, at a cost of €800 million.

- Holding the Strasbourg seat as an extra meeting point for the European Parliament has turned from a historic token of reconciliation and post-war unity between France and Germany into a sign of red tape, budgetary controversy and lack of agreements.

The Youth of the European People's Party calls on:

- The EU Council to unanimously amend the Amsterdam Treaty and therefore inaugurate the establishment of a single seat for the European Parliament.
- The European Institutions to use the "Louise Weiss" building in Strasbourg for the needs of another permanent administration or department.
- The European Parliament to condense and accelerate its administrating and political procedures by reclaiming the maximum of working days weekly, so as to increase its efficiency and productivity.