

Dear President of the European Parliament,

Dear President of the European Council,

Dear President of the European Commission and

Dear President of the French Republic,

We all have a responsibility for the shared future of Europe. In this time of crisis, it is high time to re-evaluate some of the rules we have upheld till now and focus on the most important aspects of the European project, which will help us move forward.

An unprecedented health crisis is currently affecting millions of people in Europe and tragically taking thousands of lives. However, this is not the end. The economic crisis will crush the hopes and dreams of generations of Europeans. We sincerely hope that we will all do whatever is in our power not to leave anyone behind.

We firmly believe that the European Parliament needs to take on its responsibility and share the burden since it is the highest European directly elected body. We need to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. If we want the people to have confidence and trust in the European project, we need to show them that we are also ready to make concessions.

Therefore, we would like to ask you to do everything in your power to change the treaties in order to have just a single seat of the Parliament in Brussels. This call has again gained a large majority of support in the 2018 Parliament discharge resolution adopted on 13 May 2020 and shall now be taken into account and acted upon. The financial and environmental costs of moving the Parliament are, especially in these times of digitally connected Europe, extremely high and hard to justify. Each year, the cost of having multiple seats amounts to more than 114 million euros and is responsible for more than 67 % of the Parliament's carbon footprint.

The concept of multiple Parliamentary seats has become entirely obsolete. It is also quite probable that the COVID-19 will remain part of our lives throughout the following years. Therefore, the mere travels between seats will be prevented by health concerns.

Let us cut our costs now and use these valuable funds for the transition of our political process into the 21st century - and we are sure that there will still be plenty left to help the European citizens directly. Let us show that we are serious and that we are not just imposing costs and requirements on people while still taking trips to Strasbourg to honor old symbols.

Now more than ever, we need new symbols of European unity and solidarity. Approval of the single seat would be a strong symbol for Europeans, especially for the "newer Member States". It would show people that we are all Europeans and that Europe can adapt, improvise and overcome this new challenge.

We believe that our response to this crisis can make us stronger.

Kind regards, and we wish you and your families good health.

Mikuláš Peksa, Member of the European Parliament

Co-signatures from MEPs:

Marcel Kolaja	Mohammed Chahim	Margrete Auken
Markéta Gregorová	Peter van Dalen	Javier Nart
Patrick Breyer	Mick Wallace	Carles Puigdemont
Nico Semsrott	Salvatore De Meo	Rob Rooker
Ville Niinistö	Sara Cerdas	Predrag Fred Matic
Alexandr Vondra	Clara Ponsatí	Kira Peter-Hansen
Sylwia Spurek	Niels Fuglsang	Kateřina Konečná
Pascal Arimont	Jadwiga Wiśniewska	Erik Marquardt
Vera Tax	Mazaly Aguilar	Ruža Tomašić
Jutta Paulus	Lídia Pereira	Johan Van Overtveldt
Bert-Jan Ruissen	Niklas Nienaß	Eleonora Evi
Jakop Dalunde	Ioannis Lagos	Witold Waszczykowski
Milan Brglez	Hilde Vautmans	Beata Kempa
Miriam Dalli	Geert Bourgeois	Fredrick Federley
Marianne Vind	Jeroen Lenaers	Radosław Sikorski
Pär Holmgren	Alexis Georgoulis	Ville Niinistö
Eugena Jurzycu	Anna Donath	Łukasz Kohut
Ivan Stefanec	Karin Karlsbro	Michaela Šojdrová
Assita Kanko	Morten Helveg Petersen	Magdalena Adamowicz
Evžen Tošenovský	Rob Roos	
István Ujhelyi	David Lega	
Martin Buschmann	Abir Al-Sahlani	
Paul Tang	Alviina Alametsä	
Ernest Urtasun	Alice Kuhnke	
Kati Piri	Derk Jan Eppink	
Henrike Hahn	Antoni Comín	
Irena Joveva	Frédérique Ries	
Miriam Lexmann	Nikolaj Villumsen	
Dorien Rookmaker	Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová	
Kim van Sparrentak	Agnes Jongerius	