

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002876/26
to the Commission
Stanisław Tyszką (ESN)
(13 July 2026)**

Subject: Resilience of Commission buildings to heatwaves and coherence with EU policies

According to Politico, on 26 June 2026, air conditioning on floors one through seven was switched off in one of the Commission's main buildings, while air conditioning on higher floors continued to operate. Trade unions representing the staff of EU institutions, including U4U, are also drawing attention to wider air-conditioning problems in Commission buildings and the impact this has on working conditions.

The Commission promotes adapting infrastructure and public administration to heatwaves and assessing climate risks, and also highlights the leading role that the public sector plays in energy efficiency. EU institutional buildings should therefore lead by example in combining climate resilience, energy efficiency and adequate working conditions.

1. What technical or organisational criteria have led to air conditioning only operating on some floors of this building?
2. Has the Commission carried out an assessment of the resilience of its buildings and their cooling systems to increasingly frequent heatwaves?
3. How does the Commission ensure that the management of its own buildings remains consistent with the climate resilience, energy efficiency and public administration preparation standards it promotes vis-à-vis the Member States?

Submitted: 13.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(18 September 2026)**

1. Due to technical reasons, the air conditioning system in the Berlaymont building had to progressively switch off on Friday 26 June 2026 afternoon, floor by floor. Before the end of the day, the entire building was without cooling system. This was done to prevent the cooling system from stalling, which could have led to more long-lasting consequences.
 2. The Commission carries out climate vulnerability and risk assessments for all new buildings and continuously assesses the fitness of its buildings. These assessments can lead to technical adjustments or renovation of older buildings to improve energy performance and increase climate resilience.
 3. The Commission integrates the climate resilience and energy efficiency standards it promotes externally in its internal buildings policy, with measures such as passive cooling, shading and improved insulation forming an integral part of its renovation and maintenance programmes.
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