

Bruxelles, 20 July 2023

Dear Ms President,

Dear Roberta Metsola, MEP,

Letter on Daytime Cleaning to President of the EU Parliament Roberta Metsola

We are writing you to ask to implement daytime cleaning on the premises of the European Parliament in Bruxelles and Strasbourg. We, the undersigned MEPs, believe that this would ameliorate the position of cleaners working in the Parliament both in Bruxelles and Strasbourg.

Despite being socially responsible and environmentally sustainable, daytime cleaning remains under-utilised by European institutions.

That is why the EU social partners in Industrial Cleaning EFCI and UNI Europa signed [a new joint statement](#) calling on the European institutions to implement daytime cleaning and continuous shifts for their cleaners in October 2022.

Following up on the EU sectoral social partner statement, we believe that the European Parliament should be leading in this field. We have a responsibility to ensure that the people who are cleaning our offices and general premises are recognized as humans improving our parliamentary work.

We are not alone in believing that public institutions have a role to play in this. Most recently, the German Labour and Social Affairs Minister Hubertus Heil announced that cleaners would no longer need work in the evening hours in his Ministry. He added: "I want to make this the standard in all federal ministries. Seeing who cleans up their own mess is good for everyone."

Unfortunately, the current situation of working split shifts or in the late evening is untenable for many workers. Women who often still have to care for their children or older loved ones, are not only deprived of work-life balance but also placed into more isolated and vulnerable situations both on and off the job.

Meanwhile, for many migrant workers, the cleaning sector is a pathway into the labour market of their new host societies. Yet rather than being integrated into an office with colleagues and social interactions, current working hours are a barrier to their societal integration. For both women and migrant workers, nighttime work also increases the possibility to be subject to physical violence, verbal abuse, and harassment from public (during commute) and abusive practices by employers.

The health consequences for cleaners working during the night or irregular hours are disastrous. Scientific evidence shows that nighttime cleaning impacts negatively on the body's temperature, and one's nervous system, creating effects associated with carcinogen characteristics. Women who work the night shift [increase their risk of breast cancer by 30%](#). Among the medical research community, there is also a consensus that nightshift work [disrupts our 24-hour biological clock](#), which in turn increases the risks for bodily illness and somatic maladjustments due to lack of night sleep.

By promoting daytime cleaning, the EU Parliament would directly contribute to positive public health outcomes. The public health-dimension of daytime cleaning is further highlighted by the Covid-19 crisis, which has placed greater emphasis on hygiene protocols and regular disinfection in buildings and offices. Moreover, it would also ensure higher security standards on our premises and eliminate the ‘insider threat’.

With gas shortages, rising energy and electricity costs, the EU Parliament’s switch to daytime cleaning could also make a valuable societal and economic contribution as it would save energy costs associated with having lights on during the nighttime. Moreover, it allows cleaners to use public transport during the day rather than being reliant on owning a personal vehicle. Thus, daytime cleaning is environmentally sustainable and ensures higher quality services.

We look forward to receiving a response from you.

Yours sincerely,

Agnes Jongerius,	S&D
Gabriele Bischoff,	S&D
Samira Rafaela,	RENEW
Dr Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana,	Greens/EFA
Özlem Alev Demirel,	The LEFT
Alex Agius Saliba	S&D
Aurore Lalucq	S&D
Carmen Avram	S&D
Chris MacManus	The Left
Cornelia Ernst	The Left
Daniela Rondinelli	S&D
Delara Burkhardt	S&D
Dennis Radtke	EPP
Dietmar Köster	S&D
Elisabetta Gualmini	S&D
Estrella Durá Ferrandis	S&D
Evelyn Regner	S&D
Heidi Hautala	Greens/EFA
Ilan de Basso	S&D
Javier Nart	Renew

Jens Geier	S&D
Joachim Schuster	S&D
João Albuquerque	S&D
José Gusmão	The Left
Kathleen Van Brempt	S&D
Katrin Langensiepen	Greens/EFA
Kira Marie Peter-Hansen	Greens/EFA
Klara Dobrev	S&D
Lara Wolters	S&D
Leila Chaibi	The Left
Lina Galvez Muñoz	S&D
Malin Björk	The Left
Manon Aubry	The Left
Marc Angel	S&D
Marc Botenga	The Left
Margrete Auken	Greens/EFA
María Eugenia Rodríguez Palop	The Left
Marianne Vind	S&D
Marie Toussaint	Greens/EFA
Marisa Matias	The Left
Massimiliano Smeriglio	S&D
Matjaž Nemeč	S&D
Mick Wallace	The Left
Milan Brglez	S&D
Mohammed Chahim	S&D
Mounir Satouri	Greens/EFA
Nora Mebarek	S&D
Pascal Durand	S&D
Paul Tang	S&D
Rasmus Andresen	Greens/EFA

Saskia Bricmont	Greens/EFA
Sylvie Brunet	Renew
Thijs Reuten	S&D
Thomas Rudner	S&D
Vera Tax	S&D
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė	S&D