

The Quaestors

Brussels, 7th July 2023

SUBJECT: Initiative to set up a music space in the European Parliament

Honourable Quaestors,

Music is a universal language that is deeply entrenched in our European way of life. Ode of Joy as one of the most universally recognisable symbols of the European Union best exemplifies the value and the cultural importance of music in our individual and collective identity.

The benefits of music are also well acknowledged with regard to the pursuit of a healthy work-life balance and well-being at work. Playing and listening to music in everyday life fosters concentration, stimulates creativity, and reduces stress and anxieties. Several institutions and companies have recognised the positive effects of music on productivity and overall wellbeing of employees.

While the European Parliament has been commendably incorporating music into a growing number of official events, offered free of charge to the wider audience, it still lacks a dedicated space for the organisation and the practice of musical performances.

Facilitating access to dedicated space for music, both for the public and employees can lead to better interpersonal relations as well as unique opportunity to strengthen a positive emotional experience for public visitors of the European parliament.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, therefore believe that our house should follow the good examples set by the Commission and the Council, and designate a space in the European Parliament for music. The extension of visitors' facilities offers a unique opportunity to implement such a project without interference in the regular parliamentary activities and with minimum costs. The use of the space does not entail any procurement of musical instruments or other specialised equipment. Those interested would be responsible for bringing other instruments in their possession that they wish to play, as well as for their maintenance and storage. The music space could be used either at lunchtime or after working hours on the "first come, first served" basis.

We are convinced that a great number of colleagues and staff would take advantage of this initiative and profit highly from nourishing their passion since, in the wise words of Plato, it is precisely “music that gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything”.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Milan Brglez, MEP (S&D)

Marc Angel, MEP (S&D)

Hannes Heide, MEP (S&D)

Estrella Dura Ferrandis, MEP (S&D)

Predrag Fred Matic, MEP (S&D)

Irena Joveva, MEP (Renew)

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Maria Eugenia Rodriguez Palop, MEP (The Left)

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