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by

Mrs Silvia-Claudia MIHALCEA
Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania

on

“The role of parliaments in combatting climate change”

Manama Session
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Dear Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Palace of the Parliament is one of the biggest administrative buildings in the world and the biggest in Romania, hosting the offices of the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, the Legislative Council and the Constitutional Court.

In addition, the first levels of the building consist of halls that are mainly used for international conferences, exhibitions and other large events of private companies.

As you may imagine in such a large building, the electricity consumption has been a major cost concern, reason for which starting with 2005, an electricity efficiency project has been implemented with the view to modernize the interior and exterior lighting.

As a public recognition of energy efficiency performances, several awards were achieved, including the 2008 Green Light Award.

More recently, the conventional light bulbs were replaced by LED lights.

Besides using efficient light sources, a complex Building Management System that adapts the light scenarios according to the specific needs and solarization was implemented.

All these measures were consistently reflected in the budget with yearly savings amounting up to 800.000 Euro. In terms of energy saving impact, the CO₂ reduction potential is of 2072 tons of CO₂/year.

The independent energy production and distribution in the building is also a major objective for our green strategy. We target our own energy production from renewable or alternative sources.

In this view, a feasibility study was carried out last year and the proposed solution is to expand the local heating and domestic hot water preparation system, by installing and connecting a high-efficiency trigeneration plant.

Dear colleagues,

I know that it is hard to believe but the efficiency of the measures implemented by our institution resulted in an electric consumption per square meter slightly higher than that of an average apartment, respectively 2.73 Kwh/sqm / month compared to 2.25 Kwh/sqm / month.

Pollution, waste reduction measures, and the enabling of re-use and recycling are also

areas of interest in the maintenance process. Therefore, all the electronic equipment and used light sources are specially treated and follow the recycling procedure, in partnership with relevant NGO's.

In line with the objectives of creating a Green parliament, we have taken important steps towards a more digital administration, in this regard I would like to mention a project co-financed by the European Social Fund, through which we simplified our procedures in relation with the citizens. This was achieved through a digital platform which simplifies the administrative work, reduces the amount of the paper required. For the citizens, the savings are also important in terms of transportation cost and time.

Most of these efforts reflects the need to reduce the consumption in order to meet the environmental goals and thus to reduce the environmental footprint of such a large building as the Palace of the Parliament in Romania.

Thank you for your attention!