



25 November 2025, Strasbourg

To: Ms Roberta Metsola - president of the European Parliament

Dear President Metsola,

We have drafted this letter with *Microsoft (USA) Word* on the Parliament's *HP (USA)* computers that were recently forcefully updated to *Windows 11 (Microsoft, USA)*. We then sent it to our assistants via *Outlook (Microsoft, USA)*, who made suggestions on the Parliament's *HP/Microsoft Surface* laptops hooked up to *Dell (USA)* and *LG (S. Korea)* monitors, and wrote us back using their *DELL/HP* keyboards.

In these turbulent times, when even old friends can turn into foes and their companies into a political [tool](#), we cannot afford this level of dependence on foreign tech, let alone continue funneling billions of taxpayers' money abroad. We need to move to European solutions, and [there are plenty of them](#)! To reference President von der Leyen's 2025 SOTEU address – we need to **'buy European'**!

With its thousands of employees and vast resources, the European Parliament is best positioned to galvanise the push for tech sovereignty. While weaning ourselves off foreign technology is not a short journey, many of the significant changes outlined below could be implemented immediately if there were the political will to do so. This is what we ask of you, President Metsola: **political will**.

Let's start with the hardware. The Parliament's vehicle fleet is almost entirely made up of cars from European brands. The same can be replicated for end-product computer hardware. Instead of *Dell* and *HP* peripherals (keyboard, mouse, webcam, etc.), for example, we should buy exclusively from European brands such as *Cherry (Germany)*, *Hator (Ukraine)* and *Logitech (Switzerland)*, among others.

For the laptop computers too, there are plenty of European solutions from *Slimbook (Spain)* to *Tuxedo Computers (Germany)* to *NovaCustom (Netherlands)* to name the few. *Wortmann (Germany)* produces PC monitors and other computer components.

As for the smartphones that EP sometimes provides to its staff for missions, *Fairphone (the Netherlands)*, *HMD/Nokia (Finland)* and *Gigaset (Germany)* are good alternatives to well-known US and East Asian brands. These phones can also be 'degoogle'd' using '*e/OS*' (*France*), an open-source mobile operating system.

Shifting to **European software** is becoming easier thanks to the emergence of open-source alternatives and secure private initiatives:

Rather than forcing the *Microsoft Edge browser* on EP staff (with an undeletable shortcut on the desktop), Parliament could, for example, make *Vivaldi (Norway)* the default browser. Unlike *Firefox* (also available on EP workstations), *Vivaldi* is Chromium-based. Annoyingly, in the

imposed *Edge browser*, the following foreign search engines are set as the default: *Bing*, *Google*, *Yahoo* and *DuckDuckGo* — all of which, except of *DuckDuckGo*, are infamous for their abysmal privacy practices. Changing them requires a difficult workaround and is a technical ordeal, even for tech-savvy users. Instead, European search engines such as [*Ecosia \(Germany\)*](#), [*Owant \(France\)*](#), [*Startpage \(the Netherlands\)*](#) and others should be added to the default list.

As evidenced by [the Commission's example](#), deep integration with *Microsoft 365* is dangerous and reckless. It would be naive to think that big tech companies would defy [the CLOUD Act](#) and refrain from sharing sensitive European data with foreign governments. [Microsoft itself has admitted to the French Senate](#) that it cannot protect EU data from US snooping.

Thankfully, there are other options: *OpenDesk* is a simple European alternative to *Microsoft 365*, ICC just recently [switched to it](#). *LibreOffice* and *OpenOffice* are open-source software that can replace *Microsoft Office* — the Austrian military has already [made the switch](#). *La Suite Docs (France)* is a great tool for note-taking and document collaboration. [Docs](#) is a web-based collaborative writing tool from *France* and *Germany*.

Thunderbird is a free, open-source email client that can be [paired with Open-Xchange](#). *Proton (Switzerland)* offers an array of services, including email, calendar, and cloud, which can be integrated into Parliament's workflow. *Nextcloud (Germany)* and *SAP's Delos (Germany)*, along with many other European cloud providers, guarantee that European data is stored in Europe and will remain here.

Our mid-term goal should be the complete phase-out of *Microsoft* products, including the *Windows* operating system. It's easier than it sounds. *Linux (kernel from Finland)*, with its many distributions, offers a good alternative, and the majority of the EP's apps are web-based anyway. We could learn from the experience of other European institutions: [Danish cities](#), [German municipalities](#) and [French agencies](#), with tens of thousands of employees, have already moved to *Linux*, or are in the process of doing so.

In a matter of weeks, the parliament could:

- Enact a policy of buying exclusively European hardware wherever a reasonable European alternative is available.
- Install *Vivaldi* or another European browser as the default browser on computers and in the workspace of personal smartphones. Encourage staff to switch to *European search engines* in their browsers.
- Install *LibreOffice* alongside *Microsoft Office* and encourage its use (through training and reminders).
- Introduce *OpenDesk* and *Nextcloud* or other European alternatives first for collaborative work (cowriting and amending documents, etc) and then for other tasks.
- Install *Linux* alongside *Windows* so that users can choose which operating system to boot on which occasion.
- Set up a **task group** consisting of the key MEPs and respective EP services and professionals to: 1) collaborate with other institutions that have greater technological autonomy; 2) develop solutions tailored for the European Parliament; 3) create a benchmark of tech sovereignty to monitor the EP's transition.
- Urge other EU and Member State institutions to make a similar switch for the sake of interoperability and cost-sharing.

The road to Europe's technological sovereignty is not easy, but the European Parliament, with you at its wheel, can lead by example. With enough political will, we will have ***freed*** this institution from the danger of foreign tech dependency ***by the end of the mandate.***

Respectfully,

- Helmut Brandstätter
- Anna Stürgh
- Mika Aaltola
- Markéta Gregorová
- Andreas Schieder
- Merja Kyllönen
- Thomas Waitz
- Tiemo Wölken
- Damien Carême
- Thomas Pellerin-Carlin
- Kim van Sparrentak
- Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann
- Sara Matthieu
- Hannes Heide
- Saskia Bricmont
- Irena Joveva
- Villy Søvndal
- Leïla Chaïbi
- Reinier van Lanschot
- Elisabeth Grossmann
- Sibylle Berg
- Aura Salla
- Raphaël Glucksmann
- Chloé Ridet
- Rudi Kennes
- Alexandra Geese
- Martin Sonneborn
- Birgit Sippel
- Sebastian Everding
- Tomáš Zdechovský
- Erik Marquardt
- Engin Eroğlu
- Rasmus Nordqvist
- Inese Vaidere
- Majdouline Sbaï
- Rima Hassan
- Stéphanie Yon-Courtin
- Geadis Geadis