

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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## CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

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### MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

<b>7 April 2011</b>
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LOW Building, Room R1.1

**Strasbourg**

## **CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS**

### **MINUTES**

of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 7 April 2011

from 10.00 to 12.00 hours

LOW Building, Room R1.1

Strasbourg

### **CONTENTS**

Page

1.	Adoption of the draft agenda .....	9
2.	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2011 and a revised item 4.7 of the Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2011 .....	10
3.	Adoption of the final draft agenda for the May part-session (9 -12 May 2011 in Strasbourg) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary .....	11
4.	Communications of the President .....	13
4.1	Meeting between the Presidents of the three EU institutions on the Multiannual Financial Framework .....	13
4.2	EU delegation to attend the Beatification Ceremony of Pope John Paul II - 1 May 2011 .....	13
4.3	Bureau decision of 4 April 2011 establishing a Bureau Working Group on Codes of Conduct.....	13
<b>A.</b>	<b>DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
5.	Cooperation with national Parliaments - Feedback from the EU Speakers' Conference .....	16

6.	Proposal to amend the rules on travel by Committee delegations outside the three places of work - Letter from Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Chair of the Temporary Evaluation Group on the implementation of the Members' and Assistants' Statutes - Letter from Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group and Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the GREENS/EFA Group.....	18
<b>B.</b>	<b>PROPOSALS FOR DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE.....</b>	<b>21</b>
7.	Own initiative Reports - Proposal from the Political Groups Coordination .....	21
8.	Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to appoint Mr HÄFNER as an observer in the Working Party on Talks on a series of interinstitutional issues with the Council of Ministers - Letter from Mr CASINI, Chair of the Committee concerned .....	22
9.	Request for association under Rule 50 by the Committee on Development to a non legislative report by the Committee on Budgetary Control entitled "The Budgetary Control of EU Humanitarian Aid Managed by ECHO" - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs.....	23
10.	Request for association under Rule 50 by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to a non-legislative report by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on "Facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities" - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs.....	25
	<i>Visits outside the three place of work .....</i>	<i>27</i>
11.	Request from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to send a delegation to the European Medicine Agency (EMA) in London on 29 and 30 June 2011 (week set aside for political group meetings) - financial statement - Letter from Mr LEINEN, Chair of the Committee concerned .....	27
12.	Programme and composition of the Delegation for Relations with Iraq to visit Baghdad and Erbil (Iraq), from 26 to 29 April 2011 - financial statement - Country Security Assessment - Letter from Mr STEVENSON, Chair of the delegation concerned.....	28
13.	Request for an additional inter-parliamentary meeting (IPM) in either week 39 (Strasbourg) or week 40 (Brussels) between the EP and the Swiss Federal Assembly - Letter from Mr GALLAGHER, Chair of the delegation concerned (DEEA) .....	29

14.	Request to send an ad hoc delegation to Calabria to examine the troubling environmental situation - Letter from Mr LEINEN, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety .....	30
15.	Request to send an ad-hoc delegation to observe the Albanian local elections from 6 to 9 May 2011 - Letter from Mr ALBERTINI, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs - financial statement .....	31
16.	Request from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs to send a delegation to Ireland on 25 and 26 May 2011 - Letter from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the Committee concerned .....	32
17.	Request from the Committee on Development to send a delegation to Islamabad (Pakistan) from 26 to 30 April 2011 - draft programme, Country Security Assessment and financial statement - Letter from Ms JOLY, Chair of the Committee concerned.....	33
18.	Request from the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan and the Sub-Committee on Security and Defence to send a joint delegation to Kabul (Afghanistan) from 16 to 20 May 2011 - Draft programme, Country Security Assessment and financial statement - Letter from Mr BERMAN and Mr DANJEAN, Chairs of the Delegation and Committee concerned .....	34
19.	Request from the EPP Group for authorisation to hold a Presidency group meeting on 26 May 2011 (day set aside for committee meetings without meetings) in Warsaw - financial statement - Letter from Mr BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary-General of the group .....	36
20.	Request from the S&D Group for authorisation to hold a Bureau group meeting on 25 May 2011 (day set aside for committee meetings without meetings) in Warsaw - financial statement - Letter from Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the group .....	37
21.	Request from the GREENS/EFA Group for authorisation to hold a group meeting on 8 to 11 September 2011 (day set aside for committee meetings and dates without parliamentary activity) in Frankfurt and Slubice - financial statement - Letter from Ms HARMS and Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chairs of the group .....	38
22.	Urgent matters and any other business .....	39
22.1	Recommendation by the ECON Committee concerning one new member of the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) - Letter from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the ECON Committee .....	39
23.	Points for Information .....	40
23.1	Internal correspondence .....	40

23.2	Interinstitutional correspondence .....	41
24.	Date and place of next meeting .....	42

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meeting of Thursday 7 April 2011

from 10.00 -12.00 hours

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10.08 hrs, with Mr Jerzy BUZEK,

President of the European Parliament, in the chair

Present

Mr BUZEK, President

Political Group Chairs

Mr DAUL	(EPP)
Mr SCHULZ	(S&D)
Mr VERHOFSTADT	(ALDE)
Mr COHN-BENDIT (Co-Chair)	(Greens/EFA)
Mr ZAHRADIL and Mr KIRKHOPE (acting)	(ECR)
Mr BISKY	(GUE/NGL)
Mr SPERONI (Co-Chair)	(EFD)

Non attached Member

Mr CLAEYS <sup>1</sup>	(Non-attached Member)
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Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General

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<sup>1</sup> Present pursuant to Rule 24 (2) of the Rules of Regulations of Procedure

Invited:

Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

Also invited for item 5:

Mr MARTINEZ, Vice-President responsible for the relations with National Parliaments

The Council<sup>1</sup>

represented by	Mr	MILTON
	Mr	TYLIACOS

The Commission<sup>1</sup>

represented by	Mr	CHRISTENSEN
	Ms	SZYMANSKA
	Mr	FLOYD

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy<sup>1</sup>

represented by	Mr	MATTHIESSEN
	Mr	LEVINE

Office of the President

Ms	ROSINSKA
Mr	TEASDALE
Mr	O'BEARA
Mr	ALPERMANN
Mr	FISCHER
Mr	GOLANSKI
Mr	EVISON
Mr	STUTZMANN

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<sup>1</sup> present for items 1-3 of the agenda

Office of the Secretary-General

Mr DREXLER  
 Ms BLAU  
 Ms FREDSGAARD  
 Mr S. HUBER  
 Mr MANGOLD

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)	Ms F. RATTI/Mr DUNSTAN/ Mr LANE /Mr KNUDSEN/Mr CAHEN/Mr SCOTT/ Mr SANCHEZ RODRIGUEZ/Mr BROGGI/Ms JIMENEZ LOZANO/Mr CHAJN/Ms DONTERI
DG Internal Policies (IPOL)	Mr RIBERA D'ALCALÀ/Ms VANDENBOSCH/ Mr O'NEILL
DG External Policies (EXPO)	Mr AGUIRIANO/Mr C. HUBER
DG Communication (COMM)	Mr DUCH GUILLOT/Ms VAN DEN BROEKE
DG Interpretation and conferences (INTE)	Ms COSMIDOU
DG Finance (FINS)	Mr VANHAEREN
DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)	Mr VILELLA
Legal Service	Mr PENNERA/Mr PERILLO/Mr PASSOS
Director for relations with Political Groups	Mr WINKLER
Secretariat of the Bureau	Ms LINNUS/Mr WILKINSON/Mr TZIORKAS

Political groups

Mr KAMP/Mr RYNGAERT/Ms SCRIBAN/Mr RIPOLL	(EPP)
Ms COLOMBO/Mr VALLI/Ms BAPTISTA	(S&D)
Mr BEELS/Ms COLERA/Mr RASMUSSEN	(ALDE)
Ms TSETSI/Mr LINAZASORO/Mr DENKINGER	(Greens/EFA)
Mr BARRETT/Mr ISAACS	(ECR)
Ms LEPOLA	(GUE/NGL)
Mr BORDEZ/Mr VAUGIER/Ms LAIKAUF	(EFD)
Mr BUGALHO	(NI)

Mr HILLER, Ms CASALPRIM, Ms SHEIL and Mr PEGAZZANO acted as secretaries to the meeting.



1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the draft agenda (PE 461.475/CPG) and adopted it in the form shown in these Minutes.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2011 and a revised item 4.7 of the Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2011

The Conference of Presidents

- noted a revised item 4.7 of the Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2011 held in Strasbourg (PE 457.997/CPG);
- noted a letter from Mr DAUL on the Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2011 (PE 461.507/CPG)
- approved the Minutes of the meetings of 10 March 2011 held in Strasbourg and 31 March 2011 (PE 457.997/CPG and PE 461.411/CPG).

3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for the May part-session (9 -12 May 2011 in Strasbourg) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter dated 6 April 2011 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on recommendations concerning the agenda for the May 2011 part-session (PE 461.537/CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 6 April 2011 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on proposals for priority debates in plenary for the period June to September 2011 (PE 461.541/CPG and annex);
  - a note dated 31 March 2011 from Ms F. RATTI, Deputy Secretary-General, on the deadline for tabling questions for the June I part-session (PE 461.524/CPG);
  - a letter dated 20 October 2010 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs, on an opinion on the legal basis of the proposal for a Council Regulation on special conditions for trade with those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control (COM(2004)0466 final – C7-0047/2010 – 2004/0148(COD))(PE 461.483/CPG).
- considered the final draft agenda for the April part-session (9 to 12 May 2011 in Strasbourg) in the light of notes drafted by DG Presidency setting out the various options, distributed after the preparatory meetings of 5 and 6 May 2011 with the Secretaries-General of the political groups, and adopted the proposals contained in those notes with the following modifications or additional comments:

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 May 2011

- reiterated, following an exchange of views with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group and Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, that key debates should be scheduled for Wednesday mornings during the part-session week; decided, in this light, that the key debate on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, initially foreseen for the morning of Tuesday 10 May, would be scheduled on the morning of Wednesday 11 May and that the agenda items foreseen for Wednesday morning would be taken on Tuesday morning instead;
  
- held an exchange of views, with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr ZARADHIL, Chair of the ECR Group, Mr BISKY, Chair of the GUE Group and Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group, on issues related to the conduct of Question Hour with the President of the European Commission, and decided to return to the matter at the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents, with a view to improving the format of Question Hour and increasing participation by Members;

May 2011 part-session

- decided to add to the agenda for the May part-session a debate on "Council and Commission statements - Results of the informal Ecofin Council meeting of 8 April 2011";

June 2011 part-session

- noted that, in light of the EP closing days on 2 and 3 June 2011, the deadline for tabling questions for the June I part-session (6-9 June 2011 in Strasbourg) would be brought forward to 13.00 hours on Thursday, 19 May 2011.

4. Communications of the President

4.1 Meeting between the Presidents of the three EU institutions on the Multiannual Financial Framework

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President inform the meeting that, in line with Article 324 of the Lisbon Treaty, he would meet with President BARROSO and Prime Minister ORBÁN, on 14 April, in order to discuss a range of issues related to the 2012 EU Budget and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

4.2 EU delegation to attend the Beatification Ceremony of Pope John Paul II - 1 May 2011

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report on the invitation received by the European Union to attend the Beatification Ceremony of Pope John Paul II in Rome on 1 May 2011 and note that he and four Vice-Presidents would represent Parliament at this ceremony. He further noted that the European Council and Commission would be represented by Presidents VAN ROMPUY and BARROSO respectively.

4.3 Bureau decision of 4 April 2011 establishing a Bureau Working Group on Codes of Conduct

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the President report that at its meeting of 4 April 2011, the Bureau had discussed the recommendations put forward by the Conference of Presidents on 31 March 2011, with regard to improving transparency and clarifying the rules in relation to Members' responsibilities in their interactions with lobbyists. The Bureau had endorsed the political guidelines proposed by the Conference, and had agreed upon the establishment of a Working Group on the matter, which the President would chair, with Vice-Presidents LAMBRINIDIS and WALLIS acting as Vice-Chairs, and in which all political groups would be represented. The Working Group would work on four core tasks, based on the President's letter of 1 April 2011, with a view to completing its work and submitting recommendations to the Bureau before the summer recess, after having consulted the Conference of Presidents.
- held an exchange of views on the matter, with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr ZARADHIL, Chair of the ECR Group, Mr BISKY, Chair of the GUE Group, Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group and Mr CLAES, representing the non-attached Members;
- welcomed the establishment of the Working Group and endorsed its mandate and timetable, as outlined by the President;
- noted inter alia, that:
  - besides the above-mentioned issues, it was important to examine means of enforcement for the existing rules, whether or not they were strengthened;
  - the responsible parliamentary committees should also examine whether it would be possible, pursuant to Article 83 TFEU, to launch an initiative in the area of European criminal law, in order to harmonize the different legislation in this area in the Member States;

- it would be important to communicate the work of the group adequately, through the President, to a wider audience.
- heard Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, suggest that the creation of an in-house service of specialised lawyers for advising Members should be considered;
- approved the nominal composition of the Working Group as follows:

Chair	Jerzy BUZEK (out of quota)
Vice-Chairs	Stavros LAMBRINIDIS ( S&D) Diana WALLIS (ALDE)
Members	Alejo VIDAL QUADRAS (EPP) Manfred WEBER (EPP) Maria BADIA I CUTCHET (S&D) Claude TURMES (Greens/EFA) Jan ZAHRADIL (ECR) Cornelis de JONG (GUE/NGL) Francesco SPERONI (EFD)

- heard Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, request that the JURI and AFCO Committees should be associated with the work of the Working Group in some appropriate way;
- heard Mr CLAEYS request that a representative of the non-attached Members should also be included, and heard the President, in response, undertake to give due consideration to the question of how the non-attached Members could be involved in the work on this issue.

**A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

**5. Cooperation with national Parliaments - Feedback from the Speakers' Conference**

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
  - Presidency Conclusions of the EU Speakers' Conference on 4-5 April 2011 in Brussels (PE 461.517/CPG/Ann);
  - Presidency conclusions of the EU Speakers' Conference in Stockholm on 14-15 May 2010;
  - Programme and general information paper on the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU (PE 461.517/CPG);
  - Articles 12 and 36 TEU and Protocol I of the Treaty on EU;
  - a letter of 6 April 2011 from Mssrs BROK, GUALTIERI and DUFF on the above issue (PE 461.544/CPG);
- took note of the programme and general information paper on the Conference of Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU of 4-5 April 2011 in Brussels;
- heard the President, who noted that he had attended the opening of the conference in question and that thereafter the Parliament had been represented by Mr MARTINEZ, Vice-President and Chair of the Steering Group on National Parliaments;
- heard Mr MARTINEZ, Chair of the Steering Group on National Parliaments, who:
  - informed the members of the Conference of Presidents of the outcome of the conference, the key agenda item of which had been discussions on the setting up of an inter-parliamentary Conference on scrutiny of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP);
  - noted with regret that no agreement had been reached at the Speakers' Conference on some key aspects of this proposal, due to



diverging views on questions such as the size of the European Parliament's delegation, the meeting venues and the composition of the secretariat for the proposed body;

- outlined that a series of compromise proposals which had been tabled by the Belgian Presidency, which Parliament had been prepared to support, had not been met with acceptance from the majority of national delegations and, in the absence of consensus, it had been decided to revisit the issue later in the year;
- expressed concern that the discussions on this question and other topics at the conference, such as Europol and Eurojust, had been characterised by a trend on the part of several national parliament delegations towards an more 'intergovernmental' approach;
- concluded that the Parliament should only take part in any future scrutiny body of this nature if it was adequately represented thereon, and, in any case, the Parliament should focus on fulfilling its specific institutional role in accordance with the Treaties; in this context, he underlined that Parliament must continue its work to ensure that, internally, its own practices and procedures take due account of the new inter-institutional balance following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

- held an exchange of views on the matter, with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group and Mr KIRKHOPE, acting Chair of the ECR Group;
- expressed full support for the approach outlined by Mr MARTINEZ;
- heard the President, in conclusion, sincerely thank Mr MARTINEZ for all his efforts and note that the Conference of Presidents would return to the item at a subsequent meeting, as the situation evolved.

6. Proposal to amend the rules on travel by Committee delegations outside the three places of work - Letter from Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Chair of the Temporary Evaluation Group on the implementation of the Members' and Assistants' Statutes - Letter from Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group and Ms HARMS, Co-Chair of the GREENS/EFA Group

The Conference of Presidents, without debate

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter dated 1 March 2011 from Ms ROTH-BEHRENDT, Chair of the Temporary Evaluation Group on the implementation of the Members' and Assistants' Statutes, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 457.895/CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 28 March 2011 co-signed by the Presidents of the S&D Group, EPP Group, ALDE Group and Greens/EFA Group respectively, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.497/CPG);
  - Rules governing travel by committee delegations outside the three places of work (Bureau decision of 2 October 2000, most recently consolidated on 16 June 2009);
- took note of the letter of 1 March 2011, from Vice-President ROTH-BEHRENDT, Chair of the Temporary Evaluation Group on the implementation of the Members' and Assistants' Statutes, transmitting three proposals on behalf of the Group on issues relating to delegation travel by parliamentary committees;
- recalled its decision of 10 March 2011 on modification of the implementing provisions governing the work of interparliamentary delegations, in which it, *inter alia*:
  - confirmed the existing rule whereby rapporteurs may participate in inter-parliamentary delegations, but decided against any

broader participation of other Members, including chairs, vice-chairs and concerned members of the parliamentary committees;

- decided that there should be no participation of accredited assistants of Members in inter-parliamentary delegations;
  - expressed its wish that the forthcoming revision of the rules on committee travel outside the three places of work should be consistent with the revised implementing provisions governing the work of inter-parliamentary Delegations, especially regarding the non-participation of accredited assistants of Members and the inclusion of the Protocol on emergencies;
- 
- took note of the letter dated 28 March 2011 from four political group chairs, recalling the decision of the Conference, on 10 March 2011, on travel with inter-parliamentary delegations by parliamentary assistants and urging that the same rules be applied concerning committee travel;
  - decided to allow committee and subcommittee chairs to travel on all their committee's official delegations, outside the committee quota, it being understood that this should be a strictly non-transferable right to be enjoyed solely by the chair;
  - decided to confirm the rule laid down in Article 13(2) of the rules on committee delegation travel whereby Members are not allowed to make use of their additional travel allowance (Article 22 of the Implementing Measures for the Members' Statute (IMMS)) in order to accompany committee delegations outside Parliament's three places of work of which they are not official members, noting that this is consistent with the approach adopted by the Conference on 10 March 2011 towards Members' participation in inter-parliamentary delegations; and expressed the wish that this provision be extended to the use of Article 23 of the IMMS to accompany committee delegations taking place in the Member State in which a Member is elected; in this connection, stressed that Members may only

attend committee delegation meetings outside Parliament's three places of work if they are official members of the delegation concerned (that is, Members travelling within a committee's annual quota), and that this includes Members elected in the Member State in which the committee delegation takes place;

- rejected the proposal concerning travel by parliamentary assistants with committee delegations, since it was inconsistent with the position adopted by the Conference on 10 March 2011 on this issue insofar as inter-parliamentary delegations were concerned;
- invited the Bureau to update the implementing measures of the Assistants' Statute in order to ensure that the provisions on travel by assistants are consistent with the decisions adopted by the Conference of Presidents (on interparliamentary delegations) and the Bureau (on committee delegations);
- invited the Bureau to include the Protocol on emergencies in the rules on committee travel;
- invited the Bureau to take due account of the above considerations when taking a final decision on these matters.

**B. PROPOSALS FOR DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE**

7. Own initiative Reports - Proposal from the Political Groups Coordination

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
  - a proposal dated 29 March 2011 from the political group coordination, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 458.000/CPG);
  - procedure for granting authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports, decision of the CPG of 12 December 2002 (PE 339.465/BUR/Rev1);
- took note of the above-mentioned proposal from the political group coordination on own initiative reports;
- took note of and endorsed the recommendations set out in title IV of the note in question, and referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs the proposal to modify the Rules of Procedure as set out in the note; further invited the AFCO Committee to examine the question of application of Rules 163 and 167 concerning INI reports.

8. Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to appoint Mr HÄFNER as an observer in the Working Party on Talks on a series of interinstitutional issues with the Council of Ministers - Letter from Mr CASINI, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 23 March 2011 from Mr CASINI, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.447/CPG);
- recalled its decisions of 17 February, 3 and 10 March 2011 on the establishment and mandate of a negotiating team to hold talks with the Council on specific issues of inter-institutional concern, notably relating to access to confidential information, correlation tables and participation by Parliament in international conferences;
- took note of the letter dated 23 March 2011 from Mr CASINI, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, requesting that Mr HÄFNER be appointed as an observer to these talks, on the basis that any draft agreement resulting from these negotiations would have to be considered by the AFCO Committee in line with Rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure;
- noted that it is at this stage uncertain that the talks in question will result in any draft inter-institutional agreement and, on that basis, decided against the appointment of an observer from the AFCO Committee at the current juncture.

9. Request for association under Rule 50 by the Committee on Development to a non legislative report by the Committee on Budgetary Control entitled "The Budgetary Control of EU Humanitarian Aid Managed by ECHO" - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, dated 30 March 2011, transmitting a request for the application of Rule 50 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure (PE 461.416/CPG and annexes);
- took note of the request for authorisation from the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) to draw up a non-legislative own initiative report, on the basis of Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, on "Budgetary control of EU Humanitarian Aid Managed by ECHO" and the request from the DEVE Committee to be associated, under Rule 50, with this report;
- took note that the request by the Committee on Development for application of Rule 50 has been refused by the Committee on Budgetary Control and it has not been possible to resolve the matter within the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC);
- took note of the information provided by the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, including the facts that:
  - the DEVE Committee is of the view that the association procedure should be applied on the basis that DEVE has followed very closely the provision of humanitarian assistance managed by ECHO, having sent a mission to Haiti in 2010 and with a proposed mission to Pakistan foreseen for 2011;
  - the CONT Committee maintains that the requested report will be limited to the control of sound financial management of the EU Humanitarian Aid

managed by ECHO, a matter falling within the scope of CONT competence as set out in Annex VII to the Rules of Procedure; the CONT Committee has proposed that an opinion by DEVE under Rule 49 seems more appropriate than cooperation under the associated committee procedure foreseen by Rule 50;

- on 13 January 2011, the Conference of Presidents decided to reject a request for association by DEVE to a comparable CONT report on "Budgetary control of EU financial assistance to Afghanistan";
- having regard to the above, noted and endorsed the recommendation of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs that the CONT Committee be authorised to draw up a report under Rule 49 entitled "Budgetary Control of EU Humanitarian Aid Managed by ECHO", and that the DEVE Committee request for association under Rule 50 to this report be dismissed.



10. Request for association under Rule 50 by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to a non-legislative report by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on "Facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities" - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, dated 30 March 2011, transmitting a request for the application of Rule 50 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure (PE 461.493/CPG and annexes);
- took note of the above-mentioned request, transmitted by the Chair of Committee Chairs on 30 March 2011;
- took note that the request by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) for application of Rule 50 on the non-legislative report on "Facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities" was disputed by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and it had not been possible to resolve the matter within the Conference of Committee Chairs (CCC);
- took note of the information provided by the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, including the facts that:
  - the ITRE Committee has agreed in principle to application of Rule 50 for the report in question, but an agreement between the two committees has not been reached on the concrete division of competences, ITRE having indicated its willingness to share competence but not to grant ENVI exclusive competence over any parts of the report;
  - the report in question is based upon a wide-ranging Commission communication, which covers, inter alia, areas of exclusive ENVI

competence as well as concrete legal acts for which the ENVI committee has been responsible in the past;

- having regard to the above, noted and endorsed the recommendations of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs to the effect that:
  - the ITRE Committee be authorised to draw up a report under Rule 48 entitled "Facing the challenges of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities" based on the Commission communication COM(2010)0560;
  - the ENVI committee be associated to this report under Rule 50 with exclusive competence for parts pertaining to Section 2.3 as far as environmental liability and waste legislation is concerned and Chapter 4 of the Commission communication;
  - there shall be joint competence for Section 2.2, it being understood that any reference to possible revisions of existing environmental legislation should remain the exclusive competence of ENVI;
  - any future decision on the attribution of subsequent legislative proposals, notably proposals affecting more than one existing legal act, are in no way predetermined by the authorisation for ITRE to draw up this non-legislative report.

Visits outside the three place of work

11. Request from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to send a delegation to the European Medicine Agency (EMA) in London on 29 and 30 June 2011 (week set aside for political group meetings) - financial statement - Letter from Mr LEINEN, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
  - letters dated 29 and 2 March 2011, from Mr LEINEN, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.357/CPG, list of participants and financial statement);
- took note of the letters from Mr LEINEN, requesting authorisation to send a delegation of 13 Members to the European Medicine Agency (EMA) in London, on 29-30 June 2011 (dates set aside for political group and committee activities);
- recalled that, in approving the Annual Programme of Committee Delegations for 2011, the Conference "asked that specific requests be submitted by the Committees concerned in connection with each one of these visits, accompanied by financial statements and respecting the rules in force concerning travel periods and quotas, including the rules on visits to agencies";
- recalled that pursuant to Article (2a) of the Rules in force: "Every two years, each committee shall be authorised to send, during the weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities and for no more than three days, a three-member delegation to agencies (...)";
- endorsed the sending of the above-mentioned delegation, on an exceptional basis, on the condition that the delegation will leave after the group meeting and provided that the delegation is restricted to three Members (within the special 'Agency quota') plus the Chair;
- referred the matter to the Bureau for final approval.

12. Programme and composition of the Delegation for Relations with Iraq to visit Baghdad and Erbil (Iraq), from 26 to 29 April 2011 - financial statement - Country Security Assessment - Letter from Mr STEVENSON, Chair of the delegation concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter dated 18 March 2011, from Mr STEVENSON, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Iraq, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.403/CPG/draft programme and financial statement);
  - a Country Security Assessment dated 24 March 2011 (PE 461.403/CPG/annex);
  - a draft programme and note on security arrangements for the planned mission (PE 461.403/CPG);
- recalled that the Conference of Presidents decided, in principle, the sending of a delegation to Iraq (Bagdad and Erbil) on 25-29 April 2011, on the assumption that the information from the EEAS regarding security on the ground would allow such a visit to go ahead, but requested more detailed information on the programme and the eventual composition of the delegation, taking into account the logistic implications linked mainly to the security aspects;
- underlined the importance of following strict security conditions, such as that travel will be carried out systematically as a group in armoured vehicles following the programme and that the number of accompanying staff will be limited to the absolute minimum; further stress the necessity to have due regard to the evolving political and security situation in Iraq;
- took note of the detailed programme of the delegation visit;
- authorised the sending of the delegation to Bagdad and Erbil (Iraq), on 25-29 April 2011, made up of a maximum of 4 Members from the Delegation for relations with Iraq and (possibly) the Working Party on the Middle East; while noting that the timing of the delegation might need to be adapted, taking into account the political developments and security situation on the ground.

13. Request for an additional inter-parliamentary meeting (IPM) in either week 39 (Strasbourg) or week 40 (Brussels) between the EP and the Swiss Federal Assembly - Letter from Mr GALLAGHER, Chair of the delegation concerned (DEEA)

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
  - two letters dated 5 April and 17 March 2011, from Mr GALLAGHER, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Switzerland, Norway, to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and to the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.415/CPG, annex and financial statement);
- took note of the letter from Mr GALLAGHER, Chair of the above-mentioned Delegation, requesting authorisation to hold an additional EU-Switzerland interparliamentary meeting either in week 39 in Strasbourg or in week 40 in Brussels;
- noted that the 29th EU-Switzerland interparliamentary meeting features in the Annual Programme of Delegation Activities for 2011, approved by the Conference of Presidents, at its meeting of 25 November 2010 while the additional interparliamentary meeting requested is not included;
- noted however that with the Treaty of Lisbon, in this particular case, the Parliament is involved in the approval of any revision to the more than 120 bilateral EU-Switzerland sectoral agreements, as well as the adoption of any new agreements;
- recalled that pursuant to Article 7 of the Rules governing the work of Delegations, each standing delegation shall hold one inter-parliamentary meeting per year;
- decided to approve, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, the request, in the light of the justifications provided and taking due account that the additional interparliamentary meeting will be held in one of the three places of work of the Parliament.

14. Request to send an ad hoc delegation to Calabria to examine the troubling environmental situation - Letter from Mr LEINEN, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

This item was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

15. Request to send an ad-hoc delegation to observe the Albanian local elections from 6 to 9 May 2011 - Letter from Mr ALBERTINI, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs - financial statement

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 29 March 2011, from Mr ALBERTINI, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.491/CPG);
- took note of the letter from Mr ALBERTINI, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, requesting authorisation to send an ad hoc delegation composed of four Members to Albania on 6-9 May 2011 (these dates comprising a white Friday, a weekend, and the Monday of a Strasbourg plenary week) to follow the upcoming local elections on 8 May 2011;
- took note that the OSCE/ODHIR has decided to dispatch an observation mission to Albania for the local elections in question;
- recalled that the implementing provisions on election observation missions, as adopted by the Conference of Presidents, do not provide for the sending by Parliament of election observation missions to monitor local elections; nonetheless the Conference of Presidents has, on occasion, exceptionally decided to authorise ad hoc election observation missions for local elections (such as, in 2010, in Georgia and Kosovo);
- took note that the Election Coordination Group has not endorsed this request;
- decided, on an exceptional basis in light of the justification provided, to authorise the sending of a 7-member ad hoc delegation (the members of which to be appointed by the political groups, using the rolling d'Hondt system, which would also apply to the non-attached Members) to follow the local elections in Albania.

16. Request from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs to send a delegation to Ireland on 25 and 26 May 2011 - Letter from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 9 March 2011 from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the Committee concerned, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.504/CPG);
- took note of the letter dated 9 March 2011 from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, requesting authorisation to bring forward the dates of the committee's proposed delegation visit to Ireland from 1-2 September 2011, as originally foreseen, to 25-26 May 2011 (Wednesday and Thursday of a committee week, with permission to travel on Sunday evening also being requested);
- noted that this proposed delegation features in the Annual Programme of Committee Delegations for 2011, approved by the Bureau on 13 December 2010;
- endorsed the request in question, in light of the justification provided and on the conditions that their quota is respected, and referred the matter to the Bureau for final decision.



17. Request from the Committee on Development to send a delegation to Islamabad (Pakistan) from 26 to 30 April 2011 - draft programme, Country Security Assessment and financial statement - Letter from Ms JOLY, Chair of the Committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 24 March 2011, from Ms JOLY, Chair of the Committee on Development, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.482/CPG, country security assessment and financial statement);
- took note of the request from Ms JOLY, Chair of the Committee on Development, requesting to send a delegation of four Members to Pakistan on 27-29 April 2011 (dates set aside for external parliamentary activities);
- noted that the committee delegation features in the Annual Programme of Committee Delegations for 2011;
- recalled that, in approving the Annual Programme of Committee Delegations for 2011, the Bureau, on 13 December 2010, "stressed that the DEVE Committee visit to Pakistan should only take place if the security situation on the ground proof to be satisfactory and that decisions on the issue would be taken at a later stage, on the basis of information from Commission and Council to be submitted the Committee in due time";
- took note of the country security assessment and the provisional programme; stress the importance of further obtaining positive reports from the EEAS (including SitCen) on the planned visit, especially with regard to the planned one-day field trip;
- endorsed, in principle, the afore-mentioned delegation, in the light of the justifications provided, on the understanding that security conditions on the ground are met, and on the condition that the quota is respected, while noting that the timing of the delegation might need to be adapted, taking into account the political developments and security situation on the ground;
- referred the matter to the Bureau for final decision.

18. Request from the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan and the Sub-Committee on Security and Defence to send a joint delegation to Kabul (Afghanistan) from 16 to 20 May 2011 - Draft programme, Country Security Assessment and financial statement - Letter from Mr BERMAN and Mr DANJEAN, Chairs of the Delegation and Committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 29 March 2011, from Mr BERMAN, Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Afghanistan and Mr DANJEAN, Chair of the Sub-committee on Security and Defence, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.499/CPG and country security assessment);
  - an updated Country Security Assessment dated 5 April 2011 (PE 461.499/Ann/REV);
- took note of the letter from Mr BERMAN, Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Afghanistan and Mr DANJEAN, Chair of the Sub-committee on Security and Defence, requesting authorisation to send a delegation of up to seven Members to Afghanistan, on 16-20 May 2011 (dates set aside for external parliamentary activities);
- noted that both the Sub-Committee delegation and the Delegation to Afghanistan, feature in the Annual Programmes of Committee Delegations and of Delegations for 2011;
- recalled that, in approving the Annual Programme of Committee Delegations and Delegations for 2011, the Conference, on 25 November 2010, and the Bureau, on 13 December 2010, respectively, "noted that a specific request will be submitted concerning the Afghanistan delegation travel to Kabul and its region on the basis of information (from Commission and Council) concerning security conditions on

the ground" and "stressed that the SEDE Committee visit to Afghanistan should only take place if the security situation on the ground proves to be satisfactory and that decisions on the issue would be taken at a later stage, on the basis of information from Commission and Council to be submitted the Committee in due time";

- commended, in application of Article 8 of the Rules governing the travel of Committee delegations, the efforts to co-ordinate and organise a joint-delegation visit of both Sub-Committee and Delegation to Afghanistan;
- took note of the updated country security assessment for Afghanistan, and, having regard to this assessment, declined to authorise the sending of an interparliamentary delegation to Afghanistan and recommended the Bureau to adopt a similar position on the request from the SEDE Subcommittee;
- referred the matter falling under its remit (Sub-committee delegation) to the Bureau for a final decision.

19. Request from the EPP Group for authorisation to hold a Presidency group meeting on 26 May 2011 (day set aside for committee meetings without meetings) in Warsaw - financial statement - Letter from Mr BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary-General of the group

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 9 March 2011, from Mr BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary-General of the EPP Group (PE 461.446/CPG and financial statement);
- took note of the request from the EPP Group to hold a meeting of its Presidency in Warsaw (Poland) on 26 May 2011 (date set aside for committee activities);
- authorised the request by way of exception.

20. Request from the S&D Group for authorisation to hold a Bureau group meeting on 25 May 2011 (day set aside for committee meetings without meetings) in Warsaw - financial statement - Letter from Mr SCHULZ, Chair of the group

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 23 March 2011, from Mr SCHULZ, President of the S&D Group, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.444/CPG and financial statement);
- took note of the request from the S&D Group to hold a meeting of its Bureau in Warsaw on 25 May 2011 (date set aside for committee activities);
- authorised the request by way of exception.

21. Request from the GREENS/EFA Group for authorisation to hold a group meeting on 8 to 11 September 2011 (day set aside for committee meetings and dates without parliamentary activity) in Frankfurt and Slubice - financial statement - Letter from Ms HARMS and Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chairs of the group

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following document:
  - a letter dated 18 March 2011 from Ms HARMS and Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chairs of the GREENS/EFA Group on the above-mentioned subject (PE 441.448/CPG and financial statement);
- took note of the request from the Greens/EFA Group to hold a meeting of its Group in Frankfurt Oder (Germany) and Slubice (Poland) from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 September 2011 (dates set aside for committee week activities and dates without parliamentary activity);
- authorised the request by way of exception.

22. Urgent matters and any other business

22.1 Recommendation by the ECON Committee concerning one new member of the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) - Letter from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the ECON Committee

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter dated 5 April 2011 from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the ECON Committee, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 461.534/CPG);
  - a letter dated 21 March 2011 from Ms Catherine DAY, Secretary-General of the European Commission, on the nominee to the ESAC (PE 461.534./CPG/ann);
- took note of the letter from Ms Catherine DAY, Secretary-General of the European Commission, on the appointment of a member of the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC); noted that the European Parliament was invited to provide an opinion by 8 April 2011;
- took note that the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs does not object to the candidate proposed by the Commission to replace one of its twelve members of the European Statistical Advisory Committee;
- invited the President to inform the Commission accordingly;
- asked the President to communicate to the Commission that, as a matter of principle, the deadline for similar requests should be reasonable, in order to allow Parliament's competent authorities to carry out appropriate assessments of the proposals submitted.

23. Points for Information

23.1 Internal correspondence

The Conference of Presidents,

- noted the following documents:
  - a letter dated 5 April 2011 from Mr VIGENIN, Chair of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, on the organisation of the constituent meeting on 3 May 2011 in Brussels and on the revised Rules of Procedure and Constituent Act of the Euronest PA (PE 461.421/CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 6 April 2011 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on a list of requests for own initiative reports (PE 461.538/CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 6 April 2011 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on the list of requests under Rule 50 (PE 461.542/CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 6 April 2011 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on co-decision files currently under negotiation (PE 461.540CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 6 April 2011 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on interparliamentary cooperation with national Parliaments (PE 461.539/CPG and annexes);
  - a letter dated 31 March 2011 from Mr ALBERTINI and Ms JOLY (Election Coordination Group) on an EU Election Observation mission to Peru from 3-7 June 2011 (PE 461.484/CPG and financial statement);



- a letter dated 31 March 2011 from Mr ALBERTINI and Ms JOLY on the Election Coordination Group Annual Report 2010 (PE 461.485/CPG and annex);
- a letter dated 30 March 2011 from Mr GALLAGHER, Chairman of the SINEEA Delegation, on the Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum held in Norway on 22-23 February 2011 (PE 461.505/CPG);
- a letter dated 29 March 2011 from Mr SALAFRANCA and Mr PANZERI (co-chairs of the ad hoc Delegation Tunisia) on the possibility of sending a delegation to monitor the elections to the Constituent Assembly of Tunisia on 24 July 2011 (PE 461.506/CPG);
- Implementing Provisions governing the work of Delegations, decision of the Conference of Presidents of 10 March 2011 - consolidated version (PE 422.560/CPG);
- a letter dated 7 April 2011 from Mr de MAGISTRIS, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control, on the participation of his Committee to the works of the working group on the Code of Conduct for Members.

## 23.2 Inter-institutional correspondence

24. Date and place of next meeting

The Conference of Presidents

- noted that the Conference of Presidents would hold its next ordinary meeting from 11:00 to 13:00 hours on 5 May 2011 in Room 06B 001 of the Paul-Henri Spaak Building in Brussels.

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The meeting closed at 11:48 hours.