

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of Thursday

19 April 2012

Louise WEISS Building, Room R.1.1

Strasbourg

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the ordinary meeting of

Thursday, 19 April 2012

from 15:00 to 17:00 hours

Louise Weiss, Room R.1.1

Strasbourg

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Adoption of the draft agenda.....	8
2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2012.....	9
3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for May I part-session (9 and 10 May 2012 in Brussels) and the draft agenda for May II part-session (21 to 24 May 2012 in Strasbourg) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary	10
4. Communications by the President.....	11
4.1 Invitation of Mr Ollanta HUMALA, President of Peru	11
A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS	12
5. State of play on delegated acts - Report from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs.....	12
6. Preparation of next XLVII COSAC meeting from 22 to 24 April 2012 in Copenhagen.....	15
B. PROPOSALS FOR DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE	16
7. Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to draw up an Own-Initiative Report on "Constitutional Problems of Multi-tier Governance in the EU" and to nominate two co-rapporteurs - Letter from Mr CASINI, Chair of the committee concerned	16
8. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 50 concerning the procedure with associated committees between the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Transport and Tourism concerning a legislative report on ground-	

handling services at Union airports - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs	17
9. Conflict of competence between the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy concerning a legislative report on offshore oil and gas prospection, exploration and production activities and a request for association under Rule 50 by the Committee on Legal Affairs - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs	18
10. Conflict of competence between the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on International Trade regarding a legislative report establishing a partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs	20
11. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 50 concerning the procedure with associated committees between the Committee on Development and the Committee on Culture and Education concerning a legislative report establishing ERASMUS FOR ALL: The EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs	22
12. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 51 concerning the procedure with joint committee meetings between the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs concerning a legislative report on criminal sanctions for insider dealing and market manipulation - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs	24
13. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 51 concerning the procedure with joint committee meetings between the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Regional Development concerning a legislative report on the common provisions on several EU Funds - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs	26
14. Recommendation by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety concerning the list of candidates for appointment to the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority - Letter from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the committee concerned	27
15. Proposal for the appointment of one representative to the Management Board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) - Letter from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the committee concerned	28
16. Composition of the Special Committee on access to sensitive information of the Council in the field of security and defence policy - Letter from Mr BROK, Chair of the committee concerned	29

17.	Request from the EPP Group to extend the length of its meeting until Sunday 10 June 2012 on "90 years of the Pan Europe Union" - Note from Mr John BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary General of the group concerned	30
	<i>Visits outside the three places of work</i>	31
18.	Request from the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to send an ad hoc delegation to the MOP 24 Meeting in Geneva, from 12 to 16 November 2012 - Letter from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the committee concerned	31
19.	Request from the Committee on Regional Development to send a delegation to Denmark from 30 May to 1 June 2012 - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the committee concerned.....	33
20.	Request from the Delegation for Relations with the United States of America to organise the 72nd EP-US IPM - Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD) from 9 to 10 June 2012, in Copenhagen - Letter from Mr EHLER, Chair of the delegation concerned.....	34
21.	Urgent matters and any other business.....	36
21.1	Vote on the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Azerbaijan Association Agreement on 18 April 2012.....	36
22.	Items for information	37
22.1	Internal correspondence	37
22.2	Interinstitutional correspondence	37
22.3	External correspondence	38
23.	Date and place of next meeting	39

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

MINUTES

of the meeting of Thursday 19 April 2012

from 15:00 to 17:00 hours

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 15.01 hours with Mr Gianni PITTELLA,
Vice-President of the European Parliament, in the chair.

Present

Mr PITTELLA, Vice-President

Political Group Chairs

Mr	DAUL	(EPP)
Mr	SWOBODA	(S&D)
Mr	VERHOFSTADT	(ALDE)
Mr	COHN-BENDIT (Co-Chair)	(Greens/EFA)
Mr	CALLANAN	(ECR)
Ms	ZIMMER	(GUE/NGL)
Mr	SPERONI (Co-Chair)	(EFD)

Non attached Member

Ms	WERTHMANN ¹	(Non-attached Member)
----	------------------------	-----------------------

Also Present

Mr WELLE, Secretary-General

¹ Present pursuant to Rule 24 (2) of the Rules of Procedure.

Invited:

Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Council¹

represented by Ms ARPIO
 Mr MILTON
 Mr DE HERT

The Commission¹

represented by Mr NYMAND-CHRISTENSEN
 Mr BARANY
 Ms SZYMANSKA

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy¹

represented by Mr VISENTIN
 Mr LEVINE

Office of the President

Mr WINKLER
Mr KAISER
Ms MARTINEZ IGLESIAS
Ms WOLLNY
Mr PRANCKEVICIUS
Mr FREEDMAN
Mr DIRRIG

Office of the Secretary-General

Mr MANGOLD
Ms BLAU
Mr SORENSEN

¹ Present for items 1-3 of the Agenda

Secretariat

DG Presidency (PRES)

Ms F. RATTI/Mr DUNSTAN/Mr LANE /Mr KNUDSEN/Mr O'BEARA/Mr SCOTT¹/Mr URBIETA¹

DG Internal Policies (IPOL)

Mr RIBERA/Ms VANDENBOSCH/Mr CHIOCCHETTI/Ms ILARIO/Ms SAILIS¹/
Mr TZIORKAS²

DG External Policies (EXPO)

Mr AGUIRIANO/Mr PENALVER

DG Communication (COMM)

Ms LAHOUSSE/Mr DUCH GUILLOT

DG Interpretation and Conferences (INTE)

Ms COSMIDOU

DG Finance (FINS)

Mr VANHAEREN

DG Innovation, Technical Support (ITEC)

Mr VILELLA

Legal Service

Mr PENNERA/Mr PASSOS

Political groups

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

Mr Daniele CARDELLA, Assistant of Mr Pittella

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

¹ Present for items 1-3 of the Agenda

² Present for item 5 of the Agenda

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the draft agenda (PE 482.886/CPG) and adopted it in the form shown in these Minutes.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2012

The Conference of Presidents

- noted and approved the Minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2012 held in Brussels (PE 482.831/CPG and annex).

3. Adoption of the final draft agenda for May I part-session (9 and 10 May 2012 in Brussels) and the draft agenda for May II part-session (21 to 24 May 2012 in Strasbourg) – Scheduling of key debates in plenary

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 18 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference Committees Chairs, on the Conference Committees Chairs' recommendation regarding the agenda of May II part-session (21 to 24 May 2012) (PE 488.161/CPG);
 - a letter dated 19 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference Committees Chairs, on co-decision files currently under negotiation (PE 488.162/CPG);
- considered the final draft agenda for the May I part-session (9 to 10 May 2012 in Brussels) and the May II part-session (21 to 24 May 2012 in Strasbourg), in the light of notes drafted by DG Presidency setting out the various options, distributed after the preparatory meetings of 18 and 19 April 2012 with the Secretaries-General of the political groups, and adopted the proposals contained in those notes with the following additional comments:

Wednesday 9 May 2012

- heard Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group and Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, proposing that the President's declaration on Europe Day on 9 May be followed by interventions from the chair or a representative of each political group and agreed on such a procedure.

4. Communications by the President

4.1 Invitation of Mr Ollanta HUMALA, President of Peru

The Conference of Presidents

- heard the Vice-President inform about the invitation of Mr Ollanta HUMALA, President of Peru, to address Parliament in a solemn session.

A. DECISIONS/EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

5. State of play on delegated acts - Report from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 19 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, to President Schulz on the discussion held in the Conference of Committee Chairs on the above-mentioned topic (PE 488.159/CPG);
 - a note dated 29 March 2012 drawn up by the services on the use of delegated and implementing acts (PE 488.124/CPG);
 - a letter dated 7 February 2011 from President BUZEK to Mr BARROSO, President of the European Commission, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 463.751/CPG/LT);
 - Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
 - EP resolution of 5 May 2010 on the power of legislative delegation (A7-0110/2010);
- heard Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, introduce the item and outline the discussion on the issue which had taken place the previous day, 18 April 2012, within the Conference of Committee Chairs. In particular, he noted the following points:
 - Parliament faced a severe problem in carrying out its legislative work due to Council's unwillingness to use delegated acts in legislative acts as foreseen in Article 290 TFEU;
 - this was a horizontal problem affecting many committees, just as were correlation tables, and, as well as giving rise to dissatisfactory outcomes on individual dossiers, it created very significant structural problems of an institutional and legal nature, not least since it represented a challenge to Parliament's institutional prerogatives under

the Lisbon Treaty and also meant that Parliament and Council had adopted acts whose legality was questionable;

- the Conference of Presidents had adopted a clear position on the issue at its meeting of 13 January 2011, in particular with regard to the use of delegated acts in financial programmes; nonetheless, in the intervening period, decisions on individual legislative dossiers had not always respected the principles set out by the Conference of Presidents;
- in light of the above, it was important that a horizontal approach should be defined and strictly adhered to bearing in mind that the appropriate split between delegated acts and implementing acts can only be decided on a case by case basis; however, in order to provide clarity to all parties concerned a possible way forward might be to evaluate, together with the Commission and the Council, whether criteria on when it was appropriate to use delegated and implementing acts respectively could be developed ;
- additionally, he proposed, the Conference of Committee Chairs should, in close cooperation with the competent services, undertake a screening procedure of pending proposals as well as legislative acts already adopted, in order both to establish a clear picture of whether and where errors had already been made and to avoid future decisions which would be legally questionable;
- the provisions of Rule 37a of the Rules of Procedure, which foresaw that the Committee on Legal Affairs could take up questions related to delegation of legislative powers, could be used on a systematic basis;
- the Conference of Presidents should make clear that files in which the institutional rights of Parliament as regards the inclusion of delegated acts are not safeguarded, will not be put on the plenary agenda for a vote leading to a first reading agreement;

- in the longer-term, given the absence to date of case-law on the issue, the possibility of seeking a ruling from the European Court of Justice on the matter could also be considered;
 - other possible steps outlined in his letter included giving consideration, at least on a temporary basis until a horizontal solution had been found, to accepting a reinforced role for national experts in the preparatory phase of preparation of delegated acts, in order to allay Council's concerns on this front. Another possibility would be to include as many provisions as possible in the basic legislative act adopted under co-decision, which, while potentially leading to longer processes in any future modifications of these acts, would help to secure Parliament's prerogatives;
- held an exchange of views on the issue, with the participation of Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group and Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group;
- endorsed the approach set out by Mr LEHNE, invited him to proceed such as proposed, requested the competent services to carry out a screening procedure as outlined above and agreed to return to the issue at an appropriate future point to ensure any further necessary follow-up.

6. Preparation of next XLVII COSAC meeting from 22 to 24 April 2012 in Copenhagen

This item has been postponed.

B. PROPOSALS FOR DECISIONS WITHOUT DEBATE

7. Request from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to draw up an Own-Initiative Report on "Constitutional Problems of Multi-tier Governance in the EU" and to nominate two co-rapporteurs - Letter from Mr CASINI, Chair of the committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 10 April 2012 from Mr CASINI, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 482.903/CPG);
 - a letter dated 13 April 2012 from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 488.133/CPG);
- recalled that, at its meeting of 16 February 2012, the Conference of Presidents took note of the AFCO request for authorisation to draw up this report, but deferred a decision on this item until a later meeting;
- recalled that while the Rules of Procedure make no specific provision for the appointment of co-rapporteurs for an individual report, the Conference of Presidents has on previous occasions made exceptions for reports which it has considered to be of major political importance, in particular on institutional or budgetary matters;
- authorised the AFCO committee to draw up the initiative report in question and to appoint, on an exceptional basis, two co-rapporteurs, as requested.

8. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 50 concerning the procedure with associated committees between the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Transport and Tourism concerning a legislative report on ground-handling services at Union airports - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 28 March 2012, from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (PE 482.879/CPG and annexes), in which he:
 - notes that the EMPL committee has requested association under Rule 50 to a legislative report by the TRAN committee on a Proposal for a Regulation on ground-handling services at Union airports and repealing Council Directive 96/67/EC (COM(2011)0824). This request has been opposed by the TRAN committee and the two committees have been unable to find a mutually acceptable agreement on the matter;
 - outlines that the Commission proposal in question is solely based on Article 100 TFEU ("Transport"), its general objective is to enhance the efficiency and overall quality of groundhandling services for users (airlines) and end-users (passengers and freight forwarders) at EU airports. From the point of view of the content it is first and foremost a transport policy instrument and hence does not fall almost equally within the competence of two or more committees;
 - notes however that, isolated parts of the proposal can be said to fall within the competence of committees TRAN and EMPL, respectively. Therefore association can be justified as regards various recitals and articles;
 - recommends that the EMPL committee be associated under Rule 50 to the legislative report by the TRAN Committee with the division of competences as outlined in his letter, and that the two committees apply bilaterally the procedural provisions contained in his assessment;
- approved the recommendations of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs on this matter.

9. Conflict of competence between the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy concerning a legislative report on offshore oil and gas prospection, exploration and production activities and a request for association under Rule 50 by the Committee on Legal Affairs - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 29 March 2012, from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, (PE 482.882/CPG and annexes), in which he:
 - notes that the ENVI committee has contested the competence of ITRE committee regarding the legislative report on a proposal for Regulation on the safety of offshore oil and gas prospection, exploration and production activities and that JURI committee has requested association under Rule 50. The contestation has been opposed by the ITRE committee and the two committees have been unable to find a mutually acceptable agreement on the matter; the JURI request however has been agreed by the ITRE committee;
 - outlines that the legal base of the proposal is Article 192(1) TFEU ("Environment"), however, the scope and the content go far beyond environmental concerns and response capacity towards limiting environmental damage, the provisions address both environmental, work safety, technical and financial risks in the licensing process and the response capacity requirements with a view also to securing EU energy supply;
 - underlines that the ENVI Committee cannot claim exclusive competence over this proposal which was correctly attributed to the committee also responsible for the pre-legislative report which led to the proposal, namely the ITRE Committee; further notes that the proposal falls under the remit of Commissioner Oettinger, responsible for Energy;

- recommends that the ENVI Committee's contestation of competence be dismissed and that the committees ENVI and JURI be associated to the ITRE Committee's report under Rule 50 with the division of competences set out in his letter;
- approved the recommendations of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs on this matter.

10. Conflict of competence between the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on International Trade regarding a legislative report establishing a partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents,

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 30 March 2012, from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on the above-mentioned matter (PE 482.889/CPG and annexes);
 - a letter dated 16 April 2012 from Mr MOREIRA, Chair of the Committee on International Trade, on the same issue (PE 488.148/CPG);
- took note of the letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, in which he:
 - notes that the AFET committee has contested the competence of the INTA committee regarding the legislative report on a proposal for a Regulation establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries (COM(2011)0843). The contestation has been opposed by the INTA committee and the two committees have been unable to find a mutually acceptable agreement on the matter;
 - outlines that the Commission proposal replaces the financing Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high income countries and territories (ICI) which came into force in 2007 and now becomes ICI+, being extended to developing countries. The AFET committee has argued that the new proposal which falls under the remit of the Vice-President/High Representative, applies to all countries of relevance for the external action of the EU and its main aim is the implementation of the political dimension of the "Europe 2020" strategy in the framework of EU external action;

- remarks that the proposal concerns an entirely new instrument which has a general foreign policy scope both in terms of geographical coverage and in the scope of its activities, and which Parliament itself, in a resolution of 2 February 2012, has called for as a "foreign policy instrument"; furthermore, as the proposal does not distinguish specific terms for certain areas of cooperation (such as trade), the proposal cannot be easily divided between the two committees AFET and INTA.
- recommends that the AFET Committee be referred the proposal as committee responsible and that the INTA Committee be invited to contribute an opinion under Rule 49;
- heard Mr DAUL, Chair of the EPP Group, Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group and Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group on the various possibilities of co-operation on this file between the committees concerned ; heard Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, clarifying that while there is a conflict of competence between committees, no request has been made for a specific format of co-operation between the committees;
- decided, following a vote, to apply Rule 50 with the AFET committee as the leading committee and invited the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, supported by the relevant services, to define the exact distribution of competence between the two committees.

11. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 50 concerning the procedure with associated committees between the Committee on Development and the Committee on Culture and Education concerning a legislative report establishing ERASMUS FOR ALL: The EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 29 March 2012, from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (PE 482.884/CPG and annexes), in which he:
 - notes that the DEVE committee has requested association under Rule 50 to a legislative report by the CULT committee on a proposal establishing ERASMUS for all: The EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport" (COM(2011)0788). This request has been opposed by the CULT committee and the two committees have been unable to find a mutually acceptable agreement on the matter;
 - outlines that the Commission proposal in question sets out the provisions for a new single programme covering education, training, youth and sport, called "Erasmus for all" which brings together several programmes into a single, streamlined and simplified Programme and covers, inter alia, actions to support capacity building in third countries, including enlargement countries, with a particular focus on neighbouring countries and the international policy dialogue;
 - remarks that when deciding the division of competence regarding the present proposal, only the legal base, the aim, and the content of the new programme can be considered, and in the current case little can be found to support the DEVE Committee's request;
 - recalls that the Conference of Presidents has earlier been of the opinion that Rule 50 should not be interpreted too broadly and that granting Rule 50 association where a committee can claim competence on just a very small part of a proposal would set a dangerous precedent deeply affecting the coherence of Parliament's

approach to a wide range of proposals, as quite often articles with specific relevance to a broad range of policy fields can be identified within almost any proposal (in the present case at least foreign policy and employment policy can be identified as well as development policy);

- recommends that the DEVE Committee's request for association under Rule 50 be dismissed and that the DEVE Committee instead contribute with an opinion under Rule 49 to the CULT report;
- approved the recommendations of the Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs on this matter.

12. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 51 concerning the procedure with joint committee meetings between the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs concerning a legislative report on criminal sanctions for insider dealing and market manipulation - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 15 March 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, on the above-mentioned matter (PE 482.848/CPG and annexes);
 - a letter dated 2 April 2012 from Mr LÓPEZ AGUILAR, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on the same issue (PE 482.848/CPG/ANN);
 - a letter dated 13 April 2012 from Ms BOWLES, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on the same issue (PE 482.848/ANN2);
- took note of the above letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs, in which he:
 - notes that the LIBE committee has requested association under Rule 51 to a legislative report by the ECON committee on criminal sanctions for insider dealing and market manipulation. This request has been opposed by the ECON committee and the two committees have been unable to find a mutually acceptable agreement on the matter;
 - outlines that the Commission proposal in question relates to an update of the existing Market Abuse Directive (2003/6/EC on insider dealing and market manipulation) which falls within the ECON committee's responsibility. The LIBE committee has nonetheless argued that the criminal law issues concerned are inseparable from the provisions regarding insider dealing and market

manipulation and that the matter falls equally within the competences of the ECON and LIBE committees;

- recalls that there are several precedents (under the old Treaty) of legislative proposals involving criminal sanctions for which the lead committees were the committees in charge of the relevant subject matter; also notes that criminal sanctions were already made possible by the existing Directive which was dealt with by the ECON committee with an opinion of the JURI committee and no involvement of the LIBE committee at the time;
 - notes that if Rule 51 were to apply to this procedure, this would set a clear and important precedent and create an additional horizontal competence for the LIBE committee not foreseen in the EP Rules of Procedure for any future sector-specific proposal introducing criminal offences;
 - recommends that the LIBE committee's request to be associated under Rule 51 be dismissed and that the LIBE committee be invited to draw up an opinion under Rule 49;
- decided, in light of the necessity to draw on the expertise of the LIBE committee on criminal sanctions in this instance, to apply Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure for the report in question, with the ECON committee as lead committee; invited the committees concerned to find agreement on the precise allocation of competences under Rule 50 and underlined that this decision in no way constituted a precedent for any future procedures.

13. Conflict regarding the application of Rule 51 concerning the procedure with joint committee meetings between the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Regional Development concerning a legislative report on the common provisions on several EU Funds - Letter from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

The item was postponed and could possibly be dealt with by written procedure.

14. Recommendation by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety concerning the list of candidates for appointment to the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority - Letter from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted two letters dated 21 March and 16 April 2012 from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (PE 482.785/CPG and (PE 482.785/CPG/Compl), in which he informs that the term of office of seven of the fourteen members of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will expire on 30 June 2012 and that in line with the relevant Regulation (EC 178/2002) Parliament has been consulted by Council on the shortlist of proposed candidates;
- took note that the ENVI committee recommends the following six candidates (in alphabetical order) for the vacant posts on the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority:

Ms Valérie BADUEL

Ms Sue DAVIES

Mr Piergiuseppe FACELLI

Ms Jaana HUSU-KALLIO

Mr Radu ROATIȘ-CHEȚAN

Mr Michael WINTER

- endorsed this proposal, and noted further that the ENVI committee recommends that the Curricula Vitae of the successful candidates be published;
- invited the President to inform the Commission and the Council accordingly.

15. Proposal for the appointment of one representative to the Management Board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) - Letter from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 28 March 2012 from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 482.880/CPG);
- recalled its decision of 22 October 2009 whereby it appointed Mr Hartmut NASSAUER and Mr Guido SACCONI as representatives on the Management Board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and Ms Anne LAPERROUZE and Ms Christina RUDÉN as substitute representatives;
- noted that Mr NASSAUER resigned from his post on the Management Board on 23 February 2012 leading to a vacancy of his seat since then;
- noted the proposal from the ENVI Committee to nominate Ms Christina RUDÉN as Mr NASSAUER's successor on the Management Board for the remainder of his term of office (i.e. until 1 December 2013);
- endorsed the above proposal and invited the President to inform the Commission and the Council of this decision.

16. Composition of the Special Committee on access to sensitive information of the Council in the field of security and defence policy - Letter from Mr BROK, Chair of the committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 27 March 2012 from Mr BROK, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the above-mentioned subject (PE 482.869/CPG), in which he notes that:
 - Mr DANJEAN and Ms GOMES have been nominated as members of the special committee responsible for access to sensitive information of the Council in the field of security and defence policy (replacing, respectively, himself and Mr VIGENIN);
 - he himself will continue as a member of the special committee, in his new capacity as Chair of the AFET committee;
- approved the proposed changes to the composition of the special committee and invited the President to communicate this decision to the Vice-President/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

17. Request from the EPP Group to extend the length of its meeting until Sunday 10 June 2012 on "90 years of the Pan Europe Union" - Note from Mr John BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary General of the group concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a note dated 27 March 2012 from Mr John BIESMANS, Deputy Secretary General of the group concerned (PE 482.895/CPG and a revised financial statement);
- authorised the request by way of exception.

Visits outside the three places of work

18. Request from the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to send an ad hoc delegation to the MOP 24 Meeting in Geneva, from 12 to 16 November 2012 - Letter from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 28 March 2012 from Mr GROOTE, Chair of the Committee concerned (PE 482.881/CPG and financial statement) requesting authorisation to send a small ad-hoc delegation to the 24th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP 24) in Geneva from 12 to 16 November 2012 to support, through its contacts with other parliamentarians, negotiators and stakeholders the EU position in the negotiations;
- noted that this delegation does not figure in the annual programme of Committee delegations for 2012;
- recalled that pursuant to Article 22(1) of the Rules in force the Conference of Presidents may authorise ad-hoc delegations "in response to an unforeseen event of major political significance which cannot be dealt with on the basis of the annual programme referred to in Article 8(1); further recalled that the Bureau, in adopting the annual programme for travel by parliamentary committees in 2012, "took the view that delegations to annual events should, in principle, be drawn from within the annual quota(s) of the committee(s) concerned";
- noted that pursuant to Article 22(1) any request to send an ad-hoc delegation should be put forward by a political group, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development or the Committee on International Trade and that the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety is therefore not entitled to request such a delegation;

- took the view that the committee concerned could without difficulty have included this mission into its annual programme of activities, drawing from its annual quota for missions;
- noted that the dates of the visit coincide with dates set aside for political groups and committee activities ("mixed week");
- recalled that in adopting on 12 December 2011 the programme for travel by parliamentary committee delegations outside the three places of work during 2012, the Bureau emphasized the necessity for budgetary restraint;
- in the light of the above, refused authorisation of the request.

19. Request from the Committee on Regional Development to send a delegation to Denmark from 30 May to 1 June 2012 - Letter from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the committee concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 4 April 2012 from Ms HÜBNER, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development (PE 482.899/CPG), financial statement and annexes, requesting to send a seven-Member committee delegation to Copenhagen, Denmark, from 30 May to 1 June 2012 (a week reserved for committee activities in the Parliament's three places of work) during which interpretation will be provided into one language only
- noted that the above committee delegation was included in the 2012 programme of committee delegations, as approved by the Bureau on 12 December 2011, however without specifying the exact dates;
- noted that Article 6 of the Rules on travel by committee delegations stipulates that committees shall undertake missions during the weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities and that they shall be required to obtain prior authorisation from the President for any mission undertaken outside those weeks; if such an authorisation is granted, a limited language regime is to be applied that may not exceed interpretation into one language;
- endorsed the request on an exceptional basis and submitted it to the Bureau for a final decision.

20. Request from the Delegation for Relations with the United States of America to organise the 72nd EP-US IPM - Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue (TLD) from 9 to 10 June 2012, in Copenhagen - Letter from Mr EHLER, Chair of the delegation concerned

The Conference of Presidents, without debate,

- noted a letter dated 3 April 2012 from Mr EHLER, Chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States of America (PE 482.896/CPG and a revised financial statement), requesting authorisation to hold the 72nd EP-US Inter-parliamentary meeting / Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) in Copenhagen on 9-10 June 2012;
- noted that the meeting in question features in the annual programme of Delegation activities for 2012 as programmed for June or July to take place in Copenhagen;
- noted that the dates foreseen for the meeting coincide with two days without parliamentary activities (Saturday and Sunday); recalled that, as a general rule, missions by inter-parliamentary delegations are to take place during weeks set aside for external parliamentary activities;
- recalled that, as a general rule, inter-parliamentary meetings are to be held once a year and alternately in one of Parliament's places of work and in the third country concerned; noted that the 72nd EP-US Inter-parliamentary meeting / Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) in Washington and another location in December features in the annual programme of Delegation activities for 2012 such as approved by the Conference of Presidents on 8 December 2011;
- welcomed the continued dialogue with the US counterparts on issues of common interest and encouraged further initiatives focussing on specific issues with an active role of the TLD Steering Committee and the parliamentary committees concerned;
- noted that the items covered in the working sessions of the next TLD, notably "Global Financial Governance", "Transport Security" and "Cybersecurity", are subject to a number of reports currently drafted in various committees in Parliament and strongly encouraged the participation of the experts of the relevant committees in these working

sessions with a view to enabling various legislative issues of mutual interest falling under their respective competences to be properly discussed;

- reiterated its decision of 17 November 2011 that the composition of any delegation sent to TLD meetings should automatically reflect the need to involve representatives of the committees, on a serious basis, as well as the US Delegation itself and invited the political groups, in the light of the above consideration, to ensure an appropriately balanced composition between these two components, when nominating Members to this delegation;
- authorised the visit such as requested to take place on 9-10 June in Copenhagen with the members of the EP delegation travelling to Copenhagen being drawn from the delegation's quota.

21. Urgent matters and any other business

21.1 Vote on the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Azerbaijan Association Agreement on 18 April 2012

The Conference of Presidents,

- heard Mr VERHOFSTADT, Chair of the ALDE Group, commenting on the procedure for admitting an oral amendment to the above report;
- heard Mr SWOBODA, Chair of the S&D Group, Mr COHN-BENDIT, Co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group, Mr CALLANAN, Chair of the ECR Group, Ms ZIMMER, Chair of the GUE/NGL Group and Mr SPERONI, Co-Chair of the EFD Group on this matter;
- heard the Vice-President suggesting possible practical improvements for the procedure for dealing with oral amendments;
- invited the Chair of the AFET committee, Mr BROK, to take appropriate steps to clarify Parliament's position and correct possible errors.

22. Items for information

22.1 Internal correspondence

The Conference of Presidents

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter dated 14 March 2012, from Mr BROK and Ms JOLY, Co-Chairs of the Election Coordination Group, on a proposal to enlarge the mandate and composition of the Election Coordination Group to include democracy support policies (PE 482.847/CPG);
 - a letter dated 18 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference Committees Chairs, on the progress report on the elaboration of own-initiative reports from July 2009 to December 2011. Annexes (PE 488.164/CPG);
 - a letter dated 19 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference Committees Chairs, on requests for the application of Rule 50 concerning the procedure with associated committees. Annexes (PE 488.163/CPG);
 - a letter dated 18 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference Committees Chairs, on a request from ECON and IMCO to split the procedure into two separate files (COM(2011) - (2011/0341 (COD)). Annex (PE 488.166/CPG);
 - a letter dated 18 April 2012 from Mr LEHNE, Chair of the Conference Committees Chairs, on the arrangement for the transmission of comitology documents during the period of the summer recess 2012 (PE 488.165/CPG).

22.2 Interinstitutional correspondence

There was none.

22.3 External correspondence

There was none.

23. Date and place of next meeting

The Conference of Presidents

- noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of Presidents would take place from 14.00 to 16.00 hours on Wednesday 16 May 2012 in the Paul-Henri SPAAK Building in Brussels.

* *

*

The meeting closed at 16.05 hours.